

Appendix A8

Written Words Check-In (for Kindergarten)

1. Take a blank piece of paper and simply ask, "Can you write down all the words you know by yourself?"
2. Don't correct your child, but if needed, provide him or her with prompts such as "can you write cat?" or "can you write some friends' names?" or "do you know any colors?" or prompt him/her to write a few sight words.
3. Notice how many sight words your child is writing versus words that are not sight words. What kind of word patterns does he/she already know? What kinds of words are important to him/her (special objects, people, themes or topics)? Which word patterns does your child already know (such as blends, vowel pairs, endings)?
4. At this age in Kindergarten, it is ok if there aren't a lot of words your child writes independently. But keep track over time and see how he or she progresses, especially as you continue to work with him/her on these suggested activities.
5. Use these known words as building blocks for suggested activities. Hold your child accountable to spell these words correctly during independent writing.