

Appendix B8

Written Words Check-In (for Early Elementary Grades)

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 prompts such as "Can you write 'cat'?" or "Can you write some friends' names?" or "Do you know any colors?" Alternatively, prompt your child to write a few sight words.
3. Notice how many sight words your child is writing versus words that are not sight words. What kinds 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, and endings)?
4. Keep track over time and see how your child 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 for spelling these words correctly during independent writing.