

## Interactive Writing

In the Interactive Writing process, the teacher and students share both the composing and the writing. Students from the group are invited to "share the pen" to write parts of the message, supported by the teacher to varying degrees, depending upon the needs of the student. The remaining students learn from the modeling and interaction.

Together the students and teacher compose a message. The teacher selects individual students to write parts of the message, based on her knowledge of what each knows and can do.



*This picture is from the website of Northside Elementary School in Siloam Springs, AK. (web.sssd.k12.ar.us/northside/baliteracy.shtml)*

### An Interactive Writing Lesson

- Choose a meaningful topic with an authentic audience - thank you note, invitation, literature response, classroom news, list, report
- Divide the paper into a practice space and writing space
- Together, decide what the text will say.
- Count the words aloud using fingers and spaces
- Teacher guides and teaches as individual students write
- Use the "practice page" for experimenting, teaching, chunking, etc.
- Teacher does minimal writing; students take turns scribing
- Maintain a correct model - this is not the place for "bubble gum writing"
- Ongoing editing - correction tape "patches"
- One student is the writer, one student is the spacer
- Ensure that the rest of the students are engaged
  - Count words and letters on their fingers
  - Write in the air or trace on the floor
  - Hunt the room for words
  - Stretch words
  - Read together
- Allow two or three sessions to complete the text.
- Revisit the text as a shared reading or revising activity.