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INVENTIVE SPELLING: DISPELLING THE MYTH

Young Children's Writing

- Stages of Writing
 - Children learn to write moving through stages beginning with random marks and culminating with conventional or book spelling
 - There are many ways to label the various stages. Here is one of them:

Stage 1: Drawing/Scribbling

Stage 2: Experimental/Emergent Writing

Stage 3: Transitional Writing

Stage 4: Conventional Writing

From Thought to Print

- What can you make of this: (which stage is by the way?)

DOT MAK NOYS
MY DADAAY WRX HIR
BE CWIYIT

(5-year-old's sign at his daddy's home office)

Stages of Creative Writing

- Inventive spelling is a stage in this emergent writing process that remains controversial

Writing To Read – Kinderland Kindergarten – a case study

- A system of encoding and decoding, presenting children's thought in their natural language
- Inconsistencies in the English Language...examples...
 - Words that do not read like they are spelt :
 - dough "doe"
 - though "tho"
 - rough "ruf"
 - bough "bow"
 - Words that are not spelt as they are read:
 - Colonel 'kernel'

- two 'to'
- phlegm 'flem'
- Wednesday 'flem'
- Genre 'jhon-ruh'
- Inconsistencies in the English Language...examples...
 - Words that are spelt with silent phonemes: (why need them in the first place?)
 - write silent e
 - hour silent h
 - egg silent second g
 - doubt silent b

Spelling as a Skill

- More than 10 strategies for learning more than 50,000 words including the following examples:
 - Understanding basic alphabetic concepts
 - Understanding variations in grapheme/phoneme relationship
 - Learning spelling rules or patterns
 - Memorizing highly irregular words
- 4 strategies supporting spelling development:
 - 'Have a go' strategy
 - Look-cover-write
 - Word family approaches
 - Morphemic (meaning-based) strategies

Some Common Questions ...

- Should children be encouraged to invent their own spelling?
 - Fear of creating vs. fear of writing
- Will invented spelling lead to irreparable bad spelling habits?
 - A new generation of spellers

On an ending note ...