

# Using Talk for Writing



# Talk for Writing

Talk for Writing is an approach which supports children to explore, through talk, the thinking and creative processes involved in being a writer.

Talk for Writing needs to be embedded at every phase of the teaching sequence.

It should be structured to include teacher talk, supported pupil talk and independent pupil talk.

Talk for Writing should be applied in whole-class teaching and in guided writing sessions.

## Talk for Writing includes

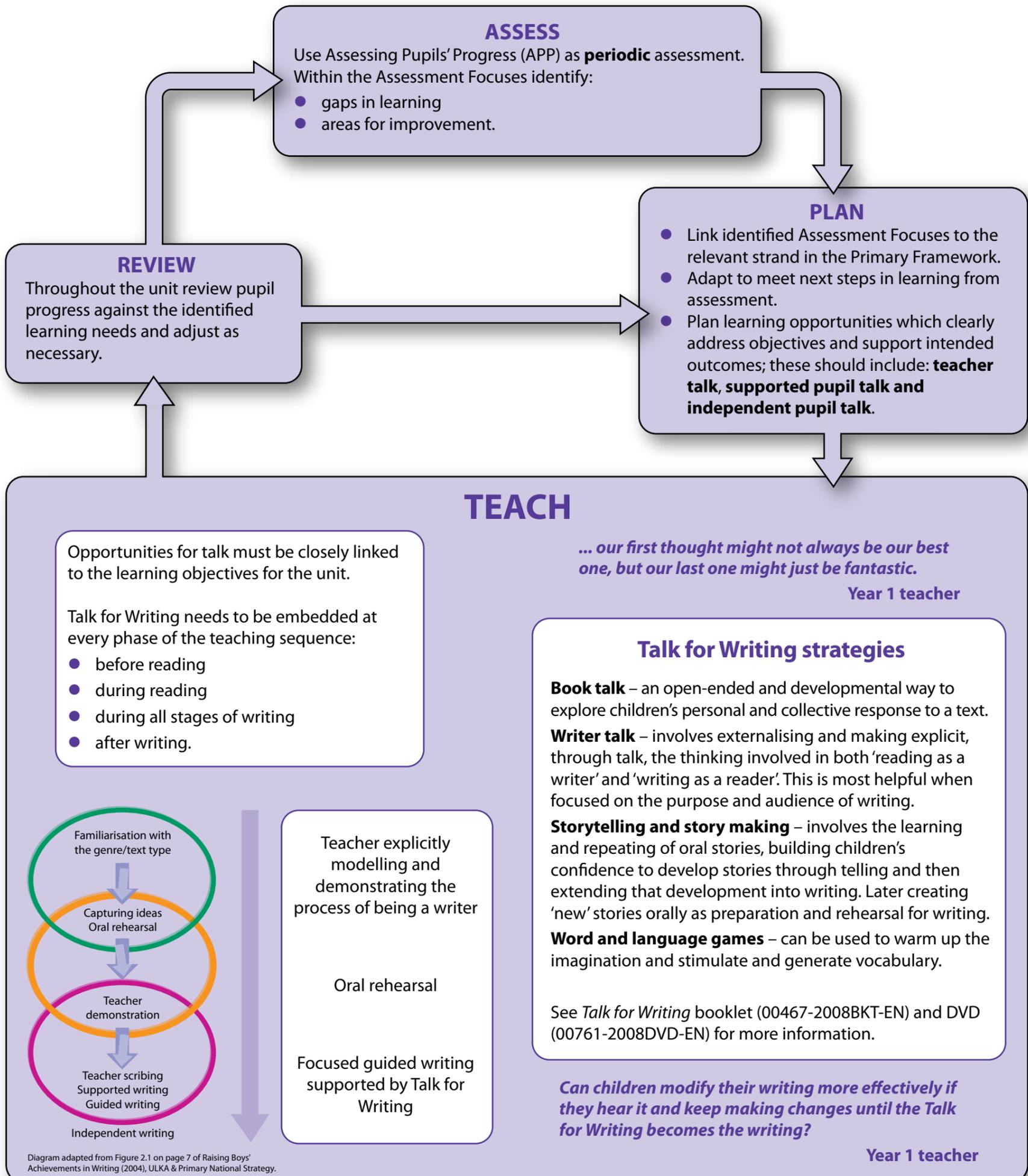
Book  
talk

Writer  
talk

Storytelling  
and  
story making

Word and  
language  
games

Role-play  
and drama



# Headteachers' FAQs

## **We are currently developing our use of APP for improving assessment of writing; will Talk for Writing support an appropriate evidence base?**

Through developing Talk for Writing in the classroom, teachers will have a range of assessment opportunities across each phase of the teaching sequence. Children's oral responses and their participation in Talk for Writing activities will provide evidence of their progress as writers.

## **How can I find out more about these teaching strategies and approaches?**

Full guidance, including case studies from teachers using these approaches, is included in the *Talk for Writing* booklet (00467-2008BKT-EN) and DVD (00761-2008DVD-EN).

## **What will be the impact of Talk for Writing on the children in my school?**

To be most effective, Talk for Writing needs to be embedded in every phase of the teaching sequence and at all stages of writing. It should not be seen just as a series of engaging activities – it needs to be closely linked to the learning objectives of the unit and planned in light of information from ongoing assessment for learning or periodic assessments. Teachers using this approach report increased engagement of previously reluctant writers and improvements in the quality of children's writing.

## **We have already had a whole-school focus on speaking and listening; why would I focus on Talk for Writing?**

Talk for Writing is an approach that goes beyond the development of children's general speaking and listening skills – it allows children to explore the processes involved in being a writer, and extends oral rehearsal so that it becomes a draft for their written pieces. The approach supports the children to move from talk into writing.

## **Why is it so important to develop 'teacher talk'?**

In order to bridge the gap from talking to writing it is helpful for the writing processes to be fully explored. A part of this is clearly modelling and sharing the thinking involved so that children get an insight into the thinking of an experienced writer.

## **Is a whole-school approach important?**

The development of the Talk for Writing strategies needs to be closely linked with a whole-school shared understanding of progression in writing so that they are used appropriately across the age and ability ranges. These strategies need to be developed and practised so that children build up confidence and skill as they move through school.