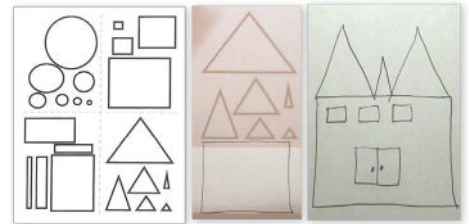


10 ways early writers can add pictorial details

While teaching language foundations and concepts of print, deliver a second daily lesson to provide young writers opportunities to express and develop their own ideas, opinions, and stories via pictorial writing. These lessons not only teach students how to communicate *before* they can write words, but the skills taught in these lessons apply to the same types of details that will later enhance their sentence writing.

#1 Layer shapes

Using layered shapes allows students to draw any topic by breaking it down into manageable parts. Begin with the largest shape, like a rectangle for a castle, and then add smaller shapes, such as triangles for the roof.

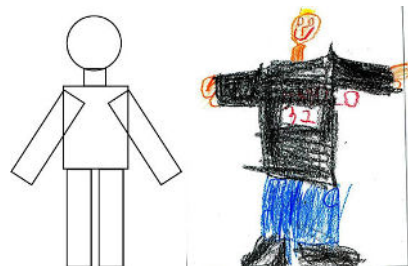


#2 Introduce color

Before writing color words in labels and sentences, students can communicate more detail by selecting the precise crayon colors to clarify if the ice cream is chocolate, strawberry, or mint flavored. Adding color details helps convey more information both in their drawings and ultimately in their writing.

#3 Color accurately

Encourage students to select colors that correspond with real-world objects, such as green for grass and blue for the sky. This practice not only improves picture clarity but also supports the importance of accurate details in all forms of writing.



#4 Depict people

Use basic shapes to help students draw people: a circle for the head, a small square for the neck, a long rectangle for the torso, and skinny rectangles for the arms and legs. These lifelike depictions of people are more accurate than stick people and encourage more close-up details.

#5 Magnify details

Teach students to draw close-up details, like links in a chain or buttons on a shirt, and textures, such as rough bark or soft fur. Including these details not only enhances their pictures but also encourages them to add interesting specifics to their sentence writing in the future.

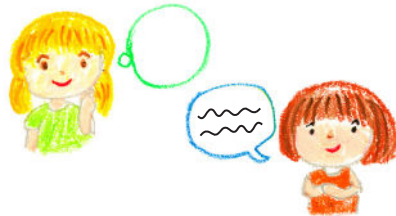


#6 Convey feelings

Adjusting specific facial features, like the angle of eyebrows or the curve of the mouth, is a way to convey emotions such as joy or sadness. This approach helps students communicate emotions effectively and lays the groundwork for developing a strong voice in writing.

#7 Reveal action

Teach students to depict actions by using bent or L-shaped legs and arms to represent walking, jumping, or waving. Including these pictorial details adds action to the information and sets the stage for incorporating action verbs into their writing.



#8 Capture speech

Individuals don't just do things; they say things as well. Teach students to add speech bubbles near characters—even if the bubbles are temporarily blank or include squiggle lines representing words. This teaches students that individuals talk and can convey more information.

#9 Provide setting

The addition of setting details around the main topic communicates when and where something is happening. Teach students to add close-up details about a physical place like a security guard walking a hallway with shiny floors and noises coming from the different rooms.



#10 Size proportionately

Keeping items in proportion conveys accurate information, too. Teach students to draw larger items bigger and smaller items smaller, like ensuring a character is taller than the pumpkin growing in the garden. This will impact their written descriptions and future comparisons.