



LEARNING CARD: PREPARING FOR WRITING



Pause and Reflect:

QUESTION 1:

In this clip, the Community Educator is focusing on getting the learners to practice writing 5 simple patterns. Why is that?

Pause and Reflect:

QUESTION 2:

What songs, chants and gestures do you use when teaching writing?

Pause and Reflect:

QUESTION 3:

What is the benefit of teaching writing patterns outdoors, as this Community Educator is doing? Can you think of other literacy activities you can do outside the classroom?

When showing this film, pause at the Pause & Reflect (P&R) questions & encourage the participants to respond to the question. The film focuses on preparing learners for writing.

P&R 1: Handwriting patterns. Elicit responses from the CEs on the reasoning behind practising the shapes before you tell them the response. You could put them in pairs or 3s and ask them to work out which shapes are frequently repeated in the alphabet besides the 5 in the video.

P&R 2: Using songs, chants & gesture. You could ask CEs to share some local songs & chants that can be used to help with writing. Get them to practise 'air writing', making clear letter shapes in the air.

P&R 3: Go through the video with the CEs looking at how the CE supports the learners in forming the shapes. Ask them in pairs to share other ways in which learners could be supported. The Pause & Reflect response gives some ideas of literacy activities that can be done outdoors. Explain each of these and then ask the CEs for some more ideas to share.

Finally, ask participants to look at what the CE is doing throughout the video. You want to elicit verbs such as being active, monitoring, assessing & supporting.

Pause and Reflect:

RESPONSE 1:

All letters are a combination of a small set of shapes and lines and many of them use these 5 patterns for their shapes. Pre-handwriting patterns help learners with the shapes and directional pushes and pulls required to form letters.

Pause and Reflect:

RESPONSE 2:

In the video the CE uses a song to make the vowel shapes with movement. CEs are probably also familiar with the alphabet song, but there are many local songs, rhymes and actions that CEs can incorporate into learner classes.

Pause and Reflect:

RESPONSE 3:

Examples of other outdoor literacy activities include: creating a set of alphabet rocks, drawing simple picture on rocks, then telling stories using these as prompts, and shaping letters and words using local resources.