



Everyone a Writer

Our programme works on the premise that Everyone is a Writer, so every story, voice and perspective matters. A writing project is a success for us when each Young Pirate writes willingly, joyfully and creatively, making writerly choices and developing their personal voice.

How does Everyone a Writer look in our sessions?

- Projects with open-ended and creative prompts that invite an individual response.
- Warm and repeated invitations to Young Pirates to share their perspective.
- A positive atmosphere where the diverse perspectives of Young Pirates are celebrated.
- Fun and low stakes environment where Young Pirates are able to practice and make mistakes.
- Opportunities for Young Pirates to build confidence through sharing their writing.
- Chances for Young Pirates to receive personalised support to improve their writing in real time.
- A repeated cycle of focuses such as splurging and refining, to help Young Pirates reflect on how they write best.

These positive details signal the worth of everyone's writing and therefore everyone's voice.

Differences between school and Literacy Pirates

Lots of schools would like to do more of what we do but don't have the time and flexibility. Here are a few ways our programme feels different to school:

- It feels lower stakes for children and we can focus more on celebration.
- We set our own time constraints and can focus on one piece of writing for longer.
- We spend more time on flair and sparkle to build confidence and enthusiasm.
- If a child writes something that's totally off topic, it doesn't matter!
- Young Pirates see it as different and may be more open to trying new things.
- We can be more personalised and flexible because of the number of supportive adults in the session.
- We make sure we use Crewmates for what they do best, not for aspects that a trained teacher would be better at doing like the minutiae of grammar or phonics.

