Title: Journaling  
Grade: Kindergarten

Content: Writing  
Duration: 5-15 minutes daily

Standards:
- **W.K.10-11**: Uses common rules of written language.
- **W.K.3**: Uses drawing, dictating, and writing about one or more events in order.
- **RF.K.1**: Understands the organization and basic features of print.

Objective: Students will draw, dictate, or write in a journal each day.

Resources Needed:
Notebook/Journal or loose sheets of paper
Pencil, crayons, or markers
Teacher may provide an online resource for responses
[Alphabet page](#)  
[Journal Topics](#) or prompts

Introduction/Description: Children will respond to prompts or write about choice events or topics of importance to them. They may draw and label important things in the pictures that help us understand their ideas. They may tell or dictate the ideas to a caregiver as the caregiver records the ideas on the paper. They may write sentences to tell their ideas.

Please encourage the child to do their own best spelling, but provide help as needed to prevent frustration on the most challenging words, like names or places.

Steps:
- Together, choose a topic of interest or use a prompt from the resources list.
- Help the child decide what form the writing will take today.
  - Draw with labels or words
  - Adult records the child’s ideas on paper with the child drawing an illustration to go with it. (dictated sentences)
  - Student independently writes a sentence or sentences
- Ask the child to tell you the ideas before writing. This will help them organize their thoughts before putting them on the paper.
- Give the child plenty of time to work, encouraging their own best spelling when possible
- When the child completes the writing and picture, have them reread or re-tell it to you.
- Ask them about details in their pictures that go with the words or sentences they wrote.

Finished Product: The child will have a collection of writing responses that can be shared with the teacher.

Adaptations:
• Ask questions that get the child to add more and more details into their pictures.
• Ask questions that encourage the child to attempt more independent writing and more details next time.
• Use lined paper or unlined paper as the child is comfortable with the space. Draw lines for each word of the sentence they want to write using good spacing and word length. Use the alphabet page to give children a model and reminder of how each letter is formed.
Journal Topics or Prompts

- What is your favorite book? Why?
- What is your greatest talent?
- What makes a good friend?
- Why do kids have to go to school?
- What do you like to do for free time?
- What would you do on the best day ever?
- If you had 3 wishes, what would you wish for?
- What is your favorite animal? Why?
- Do you like movies or music better? Why?
- Would you rather have a live pet or a stuffed animal pet? Why?
- What do you like best about learning at home?
- What is your favorite thing to do with your family?
- When you argue with a friend, how can you make up?
- What is your favorite time of year? Why?
- What do you sometimes worry about?
- What have you learned this year?
- Would you rather play inside or outside? Why?
- What is your favorite way to get exercise?
- Why is it important for kids to get exercise?
- What is your favorite thing to eat? Why?
- How do you feel when you have to wait for something?
- How does helping your family make you feel?
- If you could be in charge of learning for a day, what would you do?
- What is your favorite place in the world? Why?
- What is your favorite thing about yourself?
- How do you show someone you love them?
- How does learning something hard make you feel?
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