



Scaffolded Writing Process

-Bodrova & Leong

In Bodrova & Leong's technique called "scaffolded writing" a highlighted line is used to represent each unit of oral speech – each word.

- The child creates his or her own message and then – with the teacher's help or independently – draws a highlighted line to stand for each word in the message.
- The child then fills out the empty lines, placing scribbles, letter-like forms, or letters on the line to stand for the word in the message.
- It is intended to be a temporary tool, beginning with the assistance of someone else providing support, then is followed by a period when the children use the scaffolds on their own as a transition to self-assistance. Finally, all scaffolds are eliminated as learners can perform the task unassisted.

This process goes through several stages as children become familiar with the process.

1. At the beginning, or "teacher-assisted" stage, the *teacher asks the child to say aloud the message he or she wishes to write and repeats the message for the child to confirm its accuracy.*
2. Then the *teacher and the child repeat the message together as the teacher draws a line to stand for each word in the message.*
3. At this point, the *teacher returns the pieces of paper with only the lines drawn on it back to the child.*
4. The *child then recreates the message by writing the "word" on each of the lines using any symbol within his or her developmental level.* While the child is writing, the teacher may help the child with "sounding out" the words or encourage the child to use an alphabet chart. The teacher-child interactions are relatively brief and can be carried out not only in one-on-one settings but also when the teacher works with groups of 4-6 students. Later, children use the scaffolded writing technique independently with no help from the teacher. They may still consult an alphabet chart, other children, and the classroom dictionary for sounding out words, but the message planning, creation of the lines, and writing are completed without any assistance.