Early steps to independent writing: An active, whole-class approach

Always start with familiar, meaningful language that children can say! Language from a class book, current unit or hands-on experience is good. Break this language into smaller bits by stepping, smashing, stretching and snapping to find words, syllables and sounds! Do this lots! Have fun! Teach students how to “stick sounds down” with good letters. Practise choosing letters to “stick sounds down”. Comment positively on children’s beginning writing: “You know how to stick that sound down!” “That’s a great way to stick that noise down!” Model trying to remember if you have seen this word anywhere before! Think out loud: “Does this look right?” “Where have I seen this word?”

Denise Angelo, Manager, Language Perspectives, ISSU and Barb Baskerville, Teacher and artist Mareeba SS: Early steps to independent writing. An active, whole-class approach.