



Language Launchpad: A Teacher's Guide

Building the Foundations Every Child Needs to Develop as a Confident, Capable Writer

This overview provides actionable steps for implementing a Language Launchpad in your classroom. Use it as a reference, checklist and inspiration to ensure all learners can succeed.

1: The Launchpad Approach

Purpose: Every child can develop strong writing and language skills when given the right scaffolds and opportunities. A Language Launchpad focuses on:

- **Access:** Making writing approachable for all learners
- **Equity:** Supporting individual needs without lowering expectations
- **Empowerment:** Enabling children to express themselves and take ownership of learning

Key Concept: Writing is more than transcription—it is a process of thinking, planning, and expressing ideas.

2: Core Strategies for Language and Writing

1. Oral Composition

- Children plan sentences orally before writing to reduce cognitive load.
- Use talk partners, storyboards, and visual prompts to rehearse language.

2. Visual Supports

- Use story maps, picture cues, word banks, and color-coded steps to guide sequencing and memory.
- Supports learners with SEND, DLD, or EAL backgrounds.

3. Talk as Thinking

- Build structured oral rehearsal into every lesson:
 - Partner Talk
 - Sentence stems practice
 - Role play / storytelling
- Talking first improves writing fluency, clarity, and confidence.



4. Explicit Scaffolding

- Model planning, sentence construction, and revision using think-alouds.
- Teach children strategies for spelling, punctuation, and sentence variety.
- Gradually release responsibility from teacher → small group → independent writing.

3: Inclusive Foundations – Every Child Can Succeed

Supporting SEND / DLD Learners

- Oral composition reduces cognitive load.
- Visual prompts aid memory, sequencing, and comprehension.
- Alternative forms of expression (gesture, signing, drawing, or collaborative talk) are valued and encouraged.

Supporting EAL Learners

- Encourage home language alongside rich English input.
- Use bilingual resources, dual-language books, and word walls.
- Include content that reflects children’s backgrounds and experiences.

Equity, Not Equality

- Some learners need:
 - More time
 - More repetition
 - Different tools (assistive tech, visual scaffolds, modified text)
- Inclusion is about removing barriers, not lowering expectations.

4: Practical Classroom Actions

Strategy	Why It Matters	How to Implement
Model the Thinking	Shows problem-solving behind writing	Use think-alouds, demonstrate planning, sentence choice, and revision
Make Talk Non-Negotiable	Oral rehearsal strengthens writing	Partner Talk, storytelling, sentence stems, role-play, collaborative discussion
Create an Enabling Environment	Accessible tools support independent writing	Provide pencils, word banks, visual prompts, writing corners; model their use
Give Live Feedback	Immediate feedback accelerates learning	Give immediate, focused spoken feedback that teaches <i>how</i> to improve; scaffold rather than correct directly



Quick Tips:

- Keep feedback short and focused
- Encourage risk-taking—mistakes are learning opportunities
- Rotate tools and prompts to match learning objectives

5: Mighty Writer – Transforming the Writing Environment

Mighty Writer is a highly effective classroom tool that strengthens the Language Launchpad approach by giving children the visual, oral, and scaffolded support they need to become confident writers.

Why Mighty Writer Supports the Launchpad Approach

1. Visuals That Make Thinking Visible

Mighty Writer’s picture symbols, sentence mats, symbols and sentence starters help children:

- rehearse language before writing
- sequence ideas clearly
- build sentence fluency
- develop narrative and non-fiction structures

2. Talk Before Writing

The interactive, hands-on layout invites children to:

- orally rehearse stories and other genres
 - manipulate symbols to test ideas
 - co-construct sentences with peers
- This naturally builds the “talk as thinking” habits foundational to confident writing.

3. Inclusive and Accessible for All Learners

Mighty Writer supports children with SEND, DLD, and EAL by:

- reducing cognitive load
 - providing clear visual structure
 - supporting vocabulary recall
 - enabling children to express ideas even when transcription is still emerging
- It removes barriers without lowering expectations.



4. Scaffolded, Not Scripted

The resource gives teachers the perfect platform to:

- model sentence construction
 - scaffold revisions in real time
 - guide children through the writing process step by step
- The emphasis remains on ownership and independence.

What This Looks Like in the Classroom

- Small-group oral composition using picture cues
- Sentence construction with symbols and pictures before writing
- Story mapping to plan ideas
- Live feedback as children arrange and adjust symbols
- Independent transfer as learners move from the Mighty Writer mat to their own planning, talking and writing using mini writer mats.

Why It Matters

Mighty Writer builds the foundations every child needs to develop as a writer:

- Strong oral language
- Clear structure
- Secure sentence sense
- Confidence in generating and developing ideas
- A supportive environment where all learners can succeed

It turns the classroom into an enabling writing environment — one where children don't just write, but build, create, and understand.

Part 6: Why This All Matters – The Big Picture

- Writing gives children: a voice, ownership, and access to life opportunities.

Literacy is thinking made visible:

- Transcription gives form to ideas.
- Composition connects and develops them.

With strong foundations, children don't just write — they express, explore, and understand.



Actions:

- Embed talk, modelling, and scaffolds into every lesson
- Celebrate diverse ways of expressing ideas
- Provide inclusive support while maintaining high expectations
- Reflect and adapt: regularly check which strategies help each child thrive

Reflection & Implementation Checklist

Before the Lesson:

- Have I planned oral rehearsal opportunities?
- Are visual prompts and scaffolds ready?
- Is the environment supportive and inclusive?

During the Lesson:

- Am I modelling thinking aloud?
- Are pupils talking and rehearsing ideas?
- Am I providing live, targeted feedback?

After the Lesson:

- Did all learners have access to the tools and strategies they needed?
- Which strategies worked best for SEND, DLD, and EAL learners?
- How can I adjust scaffolds or support for next time?

Quick Reminders

- Think Aloud → Talk → Write → Revise
- Celebrate every form of expression: oral, gestural, written, visual
- Equity over equality: meet learners where they are, don't lower expectations
- Small, consistent actions have big impact: modelling, scaffolding, and feedback transform writing

End Goal: Build a Language Launchpad that ensures every child has the skills, confidence, and ownership to succeed in writing and beyond.