

## At home help with editing

Thank you for being so willing to help with editing. Your help will make the quality of the children's projects so much higher. I appreciate this.

Here's what I focus on with the children when I edit with them:

Compare their **outline** with their rough draft. Be sure they followed it. (Some kids make a beautiful outline, then disregard it and write a very disorganized draft). If it is not followed, send it right back with that comment.

Then I focus on whether the writing is **organized**. I may add comments of questions about things they might like to add, or draw a line through things that are unnecessary.

I absolutely **forbid fillers or unnecessary sentences** like: "I am going to tell you about." Or "So you can see..." We have talked about this in class. I stress that they need to tell the reader something...not tell the reader that they are going to tell them something.

I circle words like cool, awesome, neat, pretty, etc. and suggest they may try to **find a richer word**.

If the writing seems dull, I may ask them, "**So what?**" and encourage them to write about the really important thing, the thing that moved them, the thing they'll remember, etc. I don't want a laundry list of facts. Rather, I want them to tell their story.

Of course, I **correct spelling and grammar**, or with more capable writers, I circle errors and have them correct them. A common error is not knowing where to start new paragraphs (even with our organizers!).