Revising and Editing with your Child

Ideas taken from readwritethink.org’s “Peer Edit with Perfection Tutorial”

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3 Steps for Revising and Editing with your Child

1. Compliments

2. Suggestions

3. Corrections
Step 1 - Compliments

• The first rule is to stay positive.

• Remember, you’re helping to change someone else’s work. Think about how you would feel if someone were telling you what needed to be improved in your writing.
Step 1- Compliments

• Always start your editing conversation with compliments!
  – Tell the writer what you think he or she did well:
    • I really loved your topic.
    • I think you used a lot of good details.
    • I liked when you used the word __________.
    • My favorite part was ___________ because...
    • This was really fun to read because...
    • I liked the way you_________...
Step 2- Suggestions

• Making suggestions means giving the author some specific ideas about how to make his or her writing better.

• Remember- stay positive and be specific!
  – Instead of, “It didn’t make sense,” say “If you add more details after this sentence, it would be more clear.”
  – Instead of, “Your word choice needs improvement,” say, “Instead of using the word good, maybe you can use the word exceptional.”
Step 2- Suggestions

• Here are some areas that you may want to make suggestions about:
  – **Word choice**- Did the author choose interesting words?
  – **Using details** (for example, seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling)
  – **Organization**- Can you understand what the author is trying to say? Is it in the correct sequence?
  – **Sentences**- Are the sentences too long or too short?
  – **Topic**- Does the author stick to the topic or talk about other things that don’t really fit?
Step 3- Corrections

• The third step in the peer editing process is making corrections.

• Corrections means helping your child check his/her paper for:
  – Spelling mistakes
  – Grammar mistakes
  – Missing punctuation
  – Incomplete or run-on sentences
C.U.P.S.

The acronym CUPS can help you guide your child through the editing process by looking for one element at a time.

– C= Capitalization (Also check for extra capital letters during this step.)
– U= Usage (matching nouns and verbs correctly: Does each sentence “sound right”?)
– P= Punctuation (You can also check for run-on sentences at this point.)
– S= Spelling

Explore the other resources on the revising/editing section of the “How to Help you Writer” page for more information about editing for CUPS.