



Dear Parents,

Meet Freddy the Frog! Freddy is a character on a new piece of writing software we're using in our classroom this year. If you'd like to see it, go to [www.icanwriteonline.com](http://www.icanwriteonline.com) and log on using your child's username and password. The great thing about the software is that your child can use it anywhere there is a computer with Internet connection.

Freddy talks on each screen and takes your child through the steps of writing stories, descriptions, and reports. If you have a computer at your house and are connected to the Internet, your child can log in to our software and show you his/her writing so far. You can read Teacher Comments about each piece of writing on the Revise Screen.

We're just getting started, so your child might not know how to do everything yet, but we have subscribed to this software for the entire year. It will take time and practice for each student to understand not only what he or she is to do, but how. So, please be patient.

Some ways you can help your child at home:

1. Have him read his writing to you.
2. Ask questions to make her think more deeply about what she's written:
  - o Is it clear to you?
  - o Are there enough details to help you "see" a character or a place in a story he's writing?
  - o Is your child using a variety of action words or nouns to make his writing more interesting?
  - o Is she using the same describing words over and over, like good, nice, and sweet or is she learning to use new words like generous, loving, and likeable? Learning to use words like these in her writing will help her also in reading.
  - o Does his writing make sense? Is he taking time to explain what's happening or does he seem to be hurrying to finish?
  - o Do things happen in a logical order?
  - o Does her writing have a clear beginning, middle and ending?
3. Students will learn more if they come up with their own answers to questions like these rather than being told.
4. Remember that even famous authors have "writer's block" when they cannot think of ideas. Reading good children's stories at home will also help your child become a better writer.

If you have any questions about our writing program and your child's progress please call.

Sincerely,