The Three T's

Time, Teaching, Technology

'The 3 T's of Writing: Time, Teaching, & Technology.'
Dr. Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite

TIME
Students with significant disabilities, especially those who use AAC typically have limited opportunities to write. It is **crucial** that all students have an opportunity to write every day. In fact, multiple writing opportunities are desired! These can be brief writing events, but students should be able to write for a variety of purposes. Time must also include time for **planning.** writing

TEACHING
Too often, writing is just assigned, then graded, with minimal teaching in-between! Also, adults often over-prompt writing. For example, we give students 3 choices, then assume that they have 'written' the text. Or, students who talk call out words that adults spell for them. We must help students develop independence in generative writing. Below are a few tips.
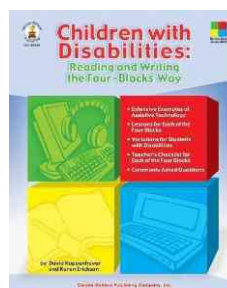
Be Sure to MODEL Writing. Beginning writers MUST see models of how writing is accomplished, with TalkAlouds to demonstrate how the teacher creates text.. See the tip on Modeled Writing: Modeled Writing

Provide MiniLessons. Good teachers provide mini-lessons, with 5 – 15 minutes of very directed instruction. These books offer great ideas on teaching mini-lessons:
Children With Disabilities: Reading and Writing the Four Blocks Way

The Write Genre by Rog & Kropp

The Art of Teaching Writing by Lucy Calkins

Support Students Through Group Writing, Then Scaffold Individual Writing.
Following a teacher model, students can collaborate with the teacher to create a group writing project. After that, students can work independently or in pairs. See samples in these tips:
Calendars to Books: January, 2012 AAC Intervention Tip
9-Word Guess Poems: June, 2013 AAC Intervention Tip

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TECHNOLOGY
A number of technology supports can support writing access and instruction.
Sample writing **access** supports include:
Portable Word Processors such as the Neo
Neo 2

Word Prediction Supports such as Solo
Solo 6

Alternate Keyboards such as IntelliKeys or apps such as:
Panther Writer

AbiliPad

Light Tech Alternative Keyboards such as the set from the Center for Literacy
and Disability Studies CD
Alternative Pencils CD

Technology supports from general education include:

Supports for Modeling Writing
These can be as old-school as overhead projectors, or as current as document
cameras and software or hardware to project iPads so that students can see them.