

Sherman Center Research Conference Example Proposal

Presentation Description: Please provide a 250-word description of your presentation. Your description should answer the following questions: What is the goal of your research project?, What did you do?, What did you learn?, What do your findings mean for advancing early childhood education?, and what are recommendations for practice?) NOTE: If you selected "flash talk" for #3, please include 2-3 questions that you would like to discuss with conference attendees.

Interactive Writing: Do Mini-Lessons on Spelling and Punctuation Support Emerging Writers?

The goal of this project was to learn how small-group interactive writing lessons helped to improve the writing skills of 10 first-grade students. I chose this topic because I noticed that my students needed additional support with writing. During the second and third grading periods of academic year 2021-2022, I implemented two weekly 20-minute interactive writing groups during the literacy block. Students worked together to write a persuasive letter about library book suggestions that was shared with the school librarian. I collected drafts of student writing and teacher reflections after each lesson every week, and I plan to analyze the data at the end of the school year. Initial findings from my experience delivering the lessons suggest that students have started to help each other more with conventional spelling from week to week without prompting. While they still need frequent reminders about overall punctuation, they consistently use punctuation at the end of each thought. My project's findings can highlight the importance of sustained writing instruction for emerging writers. I recommend that other educators incorporate interactive writing with emerging writers, and allow students to include pictures with their sentences as it helps them to pick up where they left off. This proposal is being submitted as a flash talk. As such, conference attendees will have the opportunity to provide presenters with feedback that will inform future interactive writing instruction. Specifically, presenters would like to discuss how to group students (e.g., interest-based, needs-based) and how to actively engage students who are learning English.