Description of the principle
Just as it would be difficult to teach children the tuba if you’ve never played one, so it is difficult to teach children to be writers if you never write. Become a writer-teacher who writes for and with pleasure and use your literate life as a learning tool in the classroom. Children gain from knowing that their teacher faces the same writing challenges that they do. Write and share in class your own pieces in relation to the projects you are asking the children to engage in, but be sure to maintain reciprocal relations when discussing and modelling your own writing processes and the exemplar texts you have written. Sharing the strategies that you really employ in your own writing is highly effective instruction.

What Writing For Pleasure teachers do
- Teachers write for pleasure in their own lives outside the classroom. They use their literate lives as an education tool in the classroom.
- Teachers write and share their writing with their class with regularity. They will also share their own finished pieces in relation to the projects they are asking the children to engage in. They will also take advice from the children on compositions they are in the process of developing.
- Teachers will readily share the ‘tricks, tips and secret’ strategies that they habitually employ in their own writing and will invite children to give them a try too.

Questions to consider
- Do you investigate, model, discuss and write alongside their children during writing sessions?
- Do you write for pleasure in your own life?
- Do you share your own writing into the class library?
- Do you produce writing exemplars for your pupils?
- Do you live a literate life and bring it into the classroom? Do you use your literate life as an educative tool?

Why not share an example of your own writing practice? Visit: writing4pleasure.com