**Some suggestions for fostering creative or free story writing** Box 23

* Importance of regularity and frequency
* Quiet beginning for everyone - aids concentration
* Element of free choice, - although you may need to limit e.g. football stories
* Stimuli available - free choice pictures. Choose and take silently.
* Stories could also relate to topic work, or to a real purpose for writing
* Clear expectation of process, e.g. what to do when one stage is finished – read it to a friend, or start to edit
* Firm consistent boundaries
* Peer support
* Collaborative work sometimes
* Talking with children about their writing - focus on content first

- later focus on one or two technical points

* Availability of word banks, appropriate level dictionaries available, visual aids can be helpful, but may inhibit having a go at spellings and ‘flow’.
* Teach spelling and grammar skills separately – so their writing flow is not inhibited.
* Teach editing skills separately
* Inventive spellings (in first draft) are OK
* Spelling partners are helpful for editing work later
* Encouragement of having a go at ‘difficult’ words / have a go first
* If spelling difficulties are *too* inhibiting - just quietly write word on board for them to copy
* Share stories with the class or group – author answers questions
* Story of the week – posted up

Making their stories into books for the others to read or into class books is very motivating.