

## FAQs

### *How long is the study?*

Each child participates for 2 years; the assessment and Writing Club in 6th grade, and a single follow up session in the Spring of 7th grade.

### *How often will you see my child?*

If your child is eligible after an initial screening, we will have a comprehensive assessment, followed by intervention in the spring. The Writing Club meets twice a week for 12 weeks.

### *Who are the researchers?*

Dr. Stephen Hooper is the Principal Investigator on the project. Donna Yerby is the Learning Specialist, who will help guide the teaching process. Lara Costa is the Project Director, and there are several Research Associates that will work directly with the students, including Sarah Vansalous, Karin Lanz and Crystal Edwards.

*Want to know more?*

**Contact us!**



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# Middle School Writing Project

Improving writing skills  
in the middle school years



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## What are we doing?

The Middle School Writing Project with the Department of Allied Health Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill is studying the writing skills of 6th grade students.

## What's our purpose?

Learning to write is an important part of a child's education, and we know that the writing demands increase when students enter the middle school years. This study will help us learn:

- **Strategies** that may improve writing skills, especially for students who may be struggling with writing
- How writing is **different** for students who have writing problems
- What **factors** affect a student's ability to learn to write

## What does participation mean?

If your child is eligible, he/she will:

- **Receive an assessment of writing, language, and reasoning skills in the fall of the 6th grade**
- **Complete follow-up writing assessments in 7th grade**
- **Receive additional writing instruction during the spring of 6th grade**
- **Receive a "thank you" gift card and other small gifts throughout the year**

You will receive a written summary of your child's participation.

Our partnership with local school districts means that if your child attends:

- **Gravelly Hill Middle School**
- **A.L. Stanback Middle School**
- **Charles W. Stanford Middle School OR**
- **Kestrel Heights Middle School**

Your 6th-grader could be eligible!

