Prewriting Ideas

Use these prewriting ideas to help you find writing topics. You may also use these ideas to help you focus, explore, or narrow a topic. Note: These activities have been addressed to the children, as you will be reading the activities aloud to them.

- **Listening to a partner**  Listen to a partner tell you about something he or she can do well. Then try to remember a time when you performed a similar task.

- **Tracking tasks**  Keep track of tasks you perform for one entire day. Use your list to help you choose a topic to write about.

- **Acting out steps**  Act out each step of your instructions. Have a partner guess what you are doing. Then jot your steps in order on a sheet of paper.

- **Speaking and listening**  Sit in a group with three or four of your classmates. Tell the group about something you know how to do. Answer any questions the group has about how the task is performed.

- **Drawing instructions**  Draw pictures showing the steps of your instructions in the correct order. Label the pictures with order words, such as *first, next, then, and last*.

- **Picturing a task**  Close your eyes and picture yourself performing a task you know how to do well. Think about each step. Then draw a picture or write words that tell about each step needed to perform the task.

- **Writing recipes**  As a class, brainstorm a list of simple snacks that everyone knows how to make.

- **Playing games**  Play a game with classmates. As a group, write down the steps as you follow them.