

PREDICTABLE CHART WRITING AND CLICKER

produced by
CrickSoftware and Beth Poss



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INTRODUCTION

Beth Poss, a speech language pathologist and education and technology consultant, recently presented a webinar in collaboration with Crick Software on predictable chart writing.

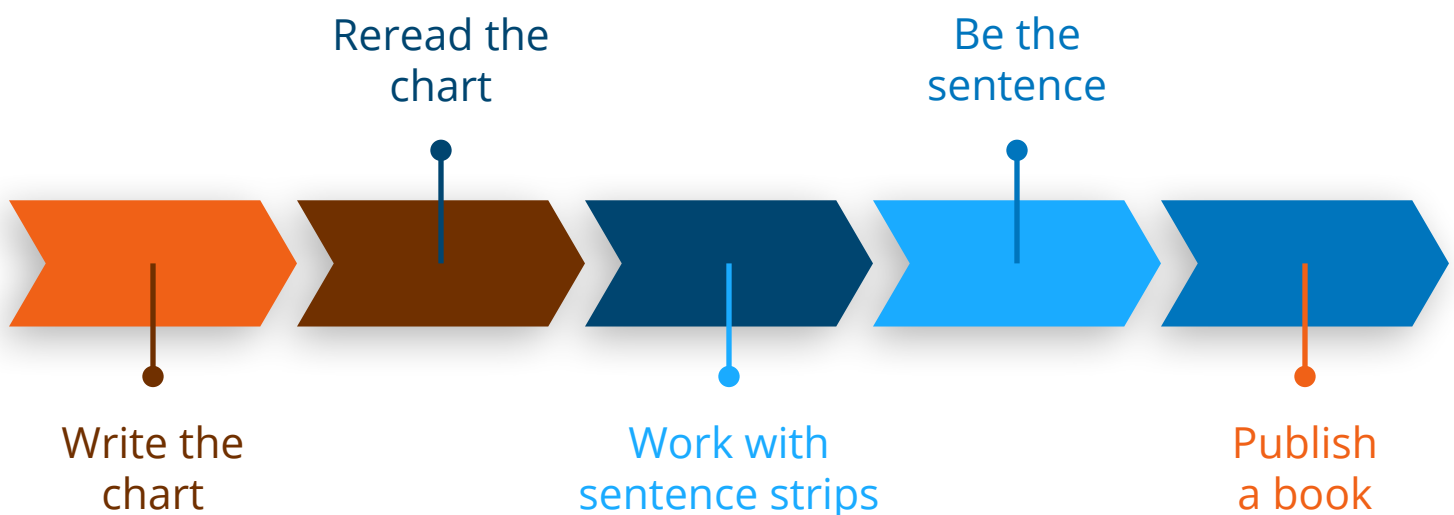


In this guide, we share Beth's ideas for using Clicker with predictable chart writing to support emergent writers and other learners.

WHAT IS PREDICTABLE CHART WRITING?

Predictable chart writing is a collaborative learning activity – a shared writing experience with a class or a group of learners. The aim of predictable chart writing is to validate all learners' thoughts and contributions while demonstrating the writing process in real time.

There are five stages of predictable chart writing:



The different stages usually take place over a 5-day period, and the end result of the process is a student book for the class library.

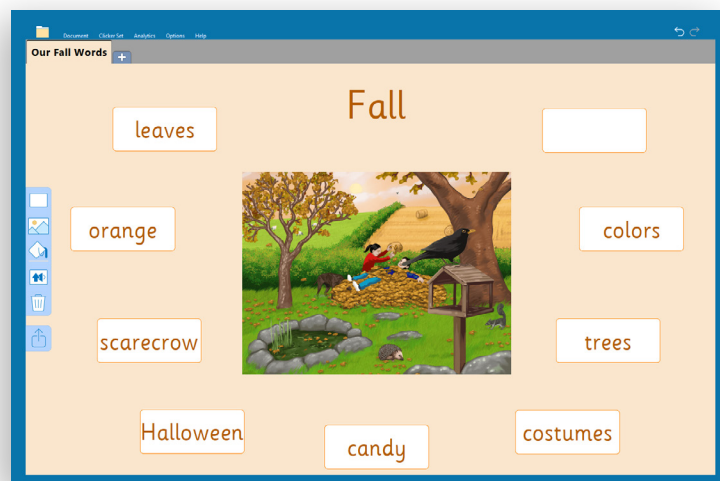
Using a digital tool, such as Clicker, can make predictable chart writing much more accessible for many learners.

THE FIVE STAGES

STAGE 1: WRITE THE CHART

Start by reading a book with the students – this will be a mentor text for the chart writing process. The book gives students background information about the topic.

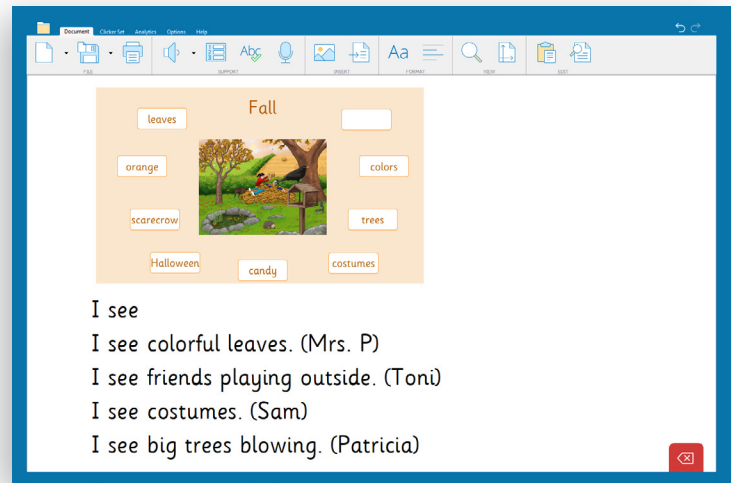
On LearningGrids, there are hundreds of Clicker Books to help front-load information on a range of topics.



Next, use a mind mapping tool, such as Clicker Board, as a prewriting activity. Get students to suggest words related to the topic.

Send a diagram of the mind map to the Clicker Document to use as a cue for the learners as they start to do the chart writing.

Add a sentence starter to the document. This is the “predictable” part of predictable chart writing - each student’s sentence begins with the same sentence starter. The educator models the first sentence and then students offer their own sentences which the educator records in the document.

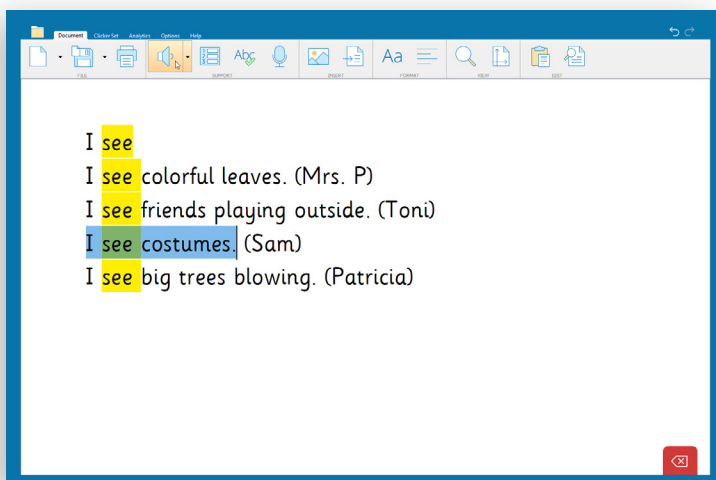


Everyone’s sentence should include an attribution so that all writers’ contributions are acknowledged and validated.

STAGE 2: REREAD THE CHART

Reread the chart as a group through choral reading. Point to the words as they are being read.

Allow students to read their own contributions individually. Some students may need to use Clicker’s speech support to read their sentence.

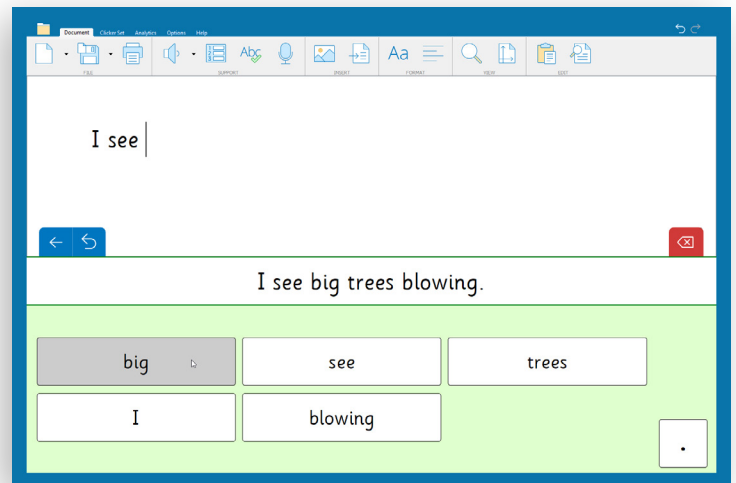


This stage is also a good opportunity to reinforce different aspects of sentence structure or to focus in on specific words in the sentences. For example, get the students to find all of the occurrences of the word “see” and highlight them in the document.

STAGE 3: WORK WITH SENTENCE STRIPS

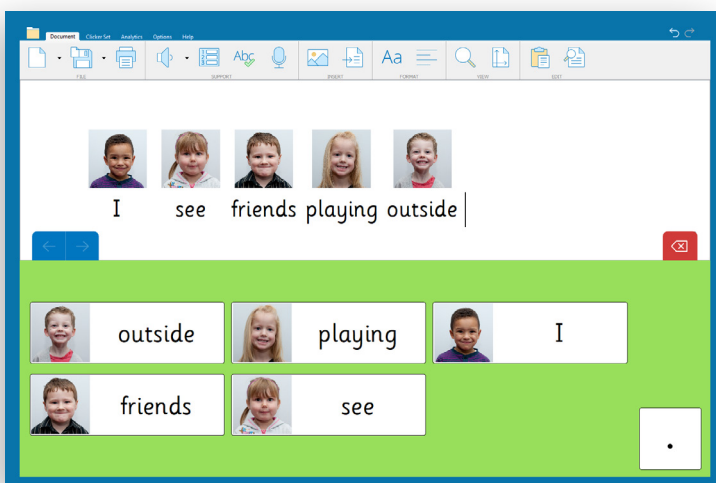
Print out the sentences and give each sentence to the writer of the sentence. Get the student to cut up the sentence into each discreet word. This helps the learners see that sentences are made up of words and that there are certain features to sentences, such as spaces between words, a starting capital letter, and end punctuation. Once their sentence is cut apart, students then reorder the words back into the correct order.

For some students, using Clicker Sentences is an ideal way for them to reconstruct their sentence independently. The different model sentence options allow students to easily compare their restructured sentence with the original.



STAGE 4: BE THE SENTENCE

Traditionally, this is done by taking a cut-up sentence and giving each word to a different student. The students go to the front of the classroom and are rearranged into the correct order of the sentence.

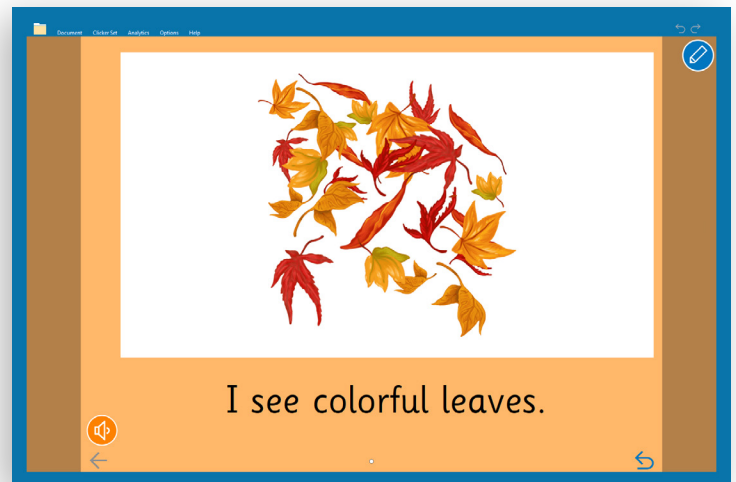


A version of this activity can also be done using Clicker Sentences. For each word in the sentence, a student's picture is added to the cell. The educator then asks questions such as "Who has the first word?" in order to reconstruct the sentence.

STAGE 5: PUBLISH A BOOK

The final stage in predictable chart writing is to produce a class book so that learners see themselves as writers who are writing for an authentic audience.

Clicker Books is a great tool for creating a book based on the sentences from the earlier stages. Clicker offers different levels of scaffolding with picture and word banks, but students can also add their own pictures and use the keyboard to create their sentence. The books can include speaker buttons to listen to the text or students can record themselves reading their own sentences. The completed Clicker Book then becomes part of a virtual classroom library or can be printed out.



This guide and **webinar** was produced by Beth Poss in collaboration with Crick Software, creators of the award-winning literacy support tools Clicker and DocsPlus. If you are looking for ways to support students in your school or district, visit **www.cricksoft.com** to find out how we can help.