



Writing Focused Support
Structures at Boston
International School and in
Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province,
China

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Context

Welcome to this guide on writing focused support structures for English. This guide is intended for the parents and students at Wuxi Boston International School - BIS (a K-12 school) and its sister school, Wuxi Boston International Pre-School – BIPS (age 2 – 6).

We appreciate that resources in the community are still relatively scarce. As we all work together to support our students, the purpose of this guide is to highlight the support structures do exist at both school campuses, as well as elsewhere, including online.

At school, writing support activities are incorporated purposely into curriculum. Further assistance is also available. Out of school opportunities can enhance this.

Resources for different ages are all included. The ages for each resources are included on the resource information. All language activities support with writing, especially reading. However, we focus on writing specific resources here.

We will continue to work together to enhance opportunities to support the community. Thank you for all the support and cooperation. It is always a pleasure to work together.

Joel Pope



Part 1 – Resources Available at School

Resources at BIPS and the Early Years Centre (age 2 – 4) at BIS



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	Homeroom teachers at the School
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>Support is for all students at the school. It is provided as part of normal class activities.</p> <p>Aged 2-3 and aged 3-4 grade levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art activities to develop the fine motor skills needed for writing later. These include drawing, painting, work with clay and playdoh.• Further activities to develop fine motor skills. These include hands on cooking and science classes, and fine motor games.• Gross motor activities, including dancing and outdoor activities also support motor development ready for writing. <p>Aged 4–5 and 5–6 grade levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing with age-appropriate arts and fine motor activities.• Early writing support begins as students are ready. Activities begin with creative activities for letter formation. This includes air writing, writing in sand, and making letters from arts materials. Students progress to learning to write their names and tracing to practice letter formation. Learning centre activities practice writing words and short sentences. Students are supported to write words, short phrases or short sentences as part of their work as they become ready. This is for example, by describing part of their artwork.
Where the Resource is Available:	Around school as part of daily activities.
When the Resource is Available:	Throughout the school day.
How the Resource is Funded:	School teachers provide the resource as part of their work. It is included within school tuition fees.

Resources at BIS



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	Homeroom teachers and English language teachers providing resources during the school day. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- English teachers for technical writing support.- Subject teachers (Middle School and High School) for subject specific writing support.- Homeroom teachers for general writing support.
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	Support is available for all ages, Kindergarten (age 5 – 6) through to Grade 12 (age 17 – 18). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All English Curriculums include specific time for focus on writing development and practice. This includes whole class instruction, and personalized feedback.• English teachers are available at lunch time and after school to give personalized support. Where necessary, they will inform students of their office hours. They will arrange private interventions, as necessary.• Homeroom teachers are available during homeroom time, and at lunchtimes and after school. They can provide support.• For Middle School and High School, subject teachers are available during lunch time and after school to give subject-specific writing support. These teachers will also include writing specific practice where necessary, during their classes.
Where the Resource is Available:	At school. In classrooms.
When the Resource is Available:	Throughout the school day.
How the Resource is Funded:	School teachers provide the resource as part of their work. It is included within school tuition fees.

Part 2 – Out of School Classes



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>EF Education First – a global education company. EF Kids and Teens (China) have centres around Wuxi.</p> <p>Details of the main Wuxi Centre are here. <i>Jinmao Plaza, 2F, No. 9 Yongle East Road, Nanchang District, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province</i> (无锡市南长区永乐东路9号金茂大厦2层)</p> <p>Search for your nearest center on WeChat or visit the main China website. Website: et2.ef-cdn.com/englishfirst/contact/headoffice.aspx Email: e1.inquiries@ef.com</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>Regular courses are available for ages 3 – 18. Classes will be appropriate to age and level. All courses focus on all four language skills and hence have specific focus on writing practice and instruction, which will include personalized feedback and support. VIP classes are also available for more specific and individual writing instruction.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>Multiple centres around the city. See the details above to find your closest centre.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Centres are each open for classes on Saturday and Sunday, and three weekday evenings. The weekdays will vary per centre. For regularly classes, you will attend either for a two-hour class, or two one-hour classes each week.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>Centres are franchises. Funding comes from investment and revenue. You will pay for classes as a customer. Contact EF directly for details.</p>

New Oriental (新东方)



Age 3 - 18

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>New Oriental (新东方) are a large and renowned education service provider all over China. They have centres at different locations in Wuxi.</p> <p>Get in touch by the website, national phone number, or hotline.</p> <p>Website: https://www.xdf.cn WeChat: Search 新东方无锡 to find your local centres. Phone (national): 400-810-0000</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>Different courses and group classes are available. These are for different ages, abilities and have different focuses. Some will focus, specifically on writing. Others focus on writing alongside other skills. VIP classes will also be available at some centres on demand. These will be personalized to needs.</p> <p>Contact centres directly for details.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>Several different centre locations around Wuxi. Use WeChat or the national phone number to find the different centres.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Classes will take place at different times throughout the week. Contact the centres for more details.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>Centres are part of the National company. This is funded by investment and revenue. As a customer, you will pay for your class or course.</p>

Private Tuition



Age 3 - 18

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>Many private English teachers work around Wuxi. These include both international teachers and Chinese teachers.</p> <p>Recommendations for finding tutors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ask around friends and colleagues.- Ask in community WeChat groups. <p>Please get in touch with your teacher if you need any assistance.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>This is private tuition. Hence it can be completely tailored to individual needs.</p> <p>It can be available to all ages and levels.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>Tuition will generally be home tuition – tutors will come to your home.</p> <p>Sometimes outside locations may be used.</p> <p>Discuss details with tutors directly.</p>
When the Resource is Available	<p>Class times can be arranged between you and the tutor based on both of your convenience and availability.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>Tutors work for themselves and pay for any resources they might need themselves.</p> <p>You will pay tutors directly for classes. You can communicate with them regarding further resources that may need to be purchased.</p>

Part 3 – Out of School Activities to Prepare Students for Writing

Early years, ages 2 – 6

Classes Offering Hands-On Activities



Ages 2 - 6

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>There are numerous locations around Wuxi offering classes in hands on activities. Types of classes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts (drawing, painting or alternative activities).• Crafts and model making.• Construction and Lego.• Science and engineering classes.• Dance
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>With regards to writing development, in the early years, up to 6 years old, the key focus should not be on writing itself, but on hands on and fine motor activities that will develop stability, control, coordination and skill with the hands, arms and whole body, that will be required for writing later on.</p> <p>A range of different types of classes are available for different ages.</p> <p>These can be searched on WeChat,</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>Multiple locations around the city, depending on the class.</p>
When the Resource is Available	<p>Multiple times throughout the week, depending on the class.</p>
How the Resource is Funded	<p>Classes will normally be run by private schools or companies. Funding will come from investment or revenue. As a customer, you will pay for classes. Prices will vary.</p>

My Gym



Ages 2 - 6

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>My Gym is an international company. It is popular in Wuxi. There are multiple centres around the city.</p> <p>Search 美吉姆 无锡 on WeChat or a Maps App to find a local centre.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>There are classes available from ages 6 months to 6 years. Classes and activities focus on developing confidence and gross motor skills including balance and coordination. Classes will focus on movement and sensory activities.</p> <p>Skills will be developed for pre-writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarity with structure and routine.• Balance, control and strength of different muscles in the body.
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>Centres are located around the city.</p> <p>Search on WeChat to find your local centre.</p>
When the Resource is Available	<p>Classes and activities available at numerous times throughout the week. Contact your local centre.</p>
How the Resource is Funded	<p>Centres are franchises. Funding comes from investment and revenue.</p> <p>You will pay for classes as a customer. Contact centres directly for details.</p>

Part 4 – Online Classes and Opportunities to Interact



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>51 Talk is an online education service in China. It is run by China Online Education Group (COE). Online English classes can be taught, generally by local Chinese teachers.</p> <p>You can contact the company to discuss options.</p> <p>Phone Number: 400-670-5151</p> <p>Website: https://www.51talk.com.cn</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>Different options are available – contact the company.</p> <p>However, most classes are one to one online classes.</p> <p>Classes will cover all four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. There will be a bigger focus on the other three skills, but writing is included. This options is best if you want writing support or development within support of all skills.</p> <p>Classes are available for ages 4 – 15.</p> <p>Writing content will vary depending on the age and ability, starting from the writing of letters and words on the screen, to sentences and paragraphs and finally to longer, writing pieces.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>These are online classes – see the details above.</p>
When the Resource is Available	<p>Flexible class times throughout the week. Contact the company to arrange classes.</p>
How the Resource is Funded	<p>China Online Education Group (COE) is a company. Funding comes from revenue and investment.</p> <p>As a customer, you will need to pay. Contact the company for details.</p>

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>Hujiang is an online learning platform and App. It is operated by the company Hujiang Education & Technology Co., Ltd. (沪江教育科技有限公司). You can take classes on both the website and the App.</p> <p>Website: https://www.hujiang.com/</p> <p>App (iOS): Download from the Apple App store.</p> <p>App (Android): Download from your relevant App store, for example Huawei AppGallery or Xiaomi GetApps.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>Hujiang offers a range of languages in English and elsewhere.</p> <p>For English, there are writing specific courses, including providing homework and personalized feedback.</p> <p>Included are classes for international English exam preparation, for example, TOEFL and IELTS.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>This is an App providing online classes, See the details above.</p>
When the Resources is Available:	<p>Flexible class times throughout the week. Use the website to find details.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>Hujiang Education & Technology Co., Ltd. (沪江教育科技有限公司) is a company. Funding comes from revenue and investment.</p> <p>As a customer, you will need to pay. Contact the company for details.</p>



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>HiNative is a language learning community App. It is used to directly ask native speakers for assistance, not for classes.</p> <p>Website: https://hinative.com/</p> <p>App (iOS): Download from the Apple App store.</p> <p>App (Android): Download from your relevant App store, for example Huawei AppGallery or Xiaomi GetApps.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>This is an App in which you can interact with native speakers and other English learners of different levels. You can ask questions relating to any area of language.</p> <p>This can include writing. You can ask questions about writing. This can include uploading photos and screenshots of your writing. You can hence get direct feedback and support.</p> <p>Ages: Age 13+ (May be possible for younger students with parental support.)</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>It is an APP, so can be used on your phone, tablet or computer.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Anytime.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>The company makes money from investment and revenue from paying users.</p> <p>This can be free to use, although with only a limited number of questions each day.</p> <p>There is a premium (paid) version offering unlimited questions.</p>

Part 5 – Apps

These are Apps we are familiar with and recommend.

Many further Apps are available, especially those that allow you to use writing in creative and project work.

English Apps you are already using may include writing practice. Please contact your teachers if you would like help finding any more.



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>EdrawMind is a mind mapping website and APP. It is from the company EdrawSoft, currently owned by Wondershare.</p> <p>Related to writing, it can be used to make mind maps to plan for essays and other writing projects.</p> <p>Website: https://www.edrawsoft.com/edrawmind/</p> <p>Download link (desktop): https://www.edrawsoft.com/edrawmind/download.html</p> <p>App (iOS): Download from the Apple App store.</p> <p>App (Android): Download from your relevant App store, for example Huawei AppGallery or Xiaomi GetApps.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>This is a mind mapping tool. It is available in multiple languages, including Chinese, Japanese and Korean, for easier access and support.</p> <p>It is most suitable for students doing longer writing tasks, who can mind map to plan – ages 11+.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>It is an APP, so can be used on your phone, tablet or computer.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Anytime.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>The App belongs to a company. Funding is provided by the company.</p> <p>For users, it can be free to use, with a limited number of mind maps.</p> <p>A premium version exists offering an increased number of mind maps and other features.</p>

MoMo Vocabulary (墨墨背单词)



Ages 12+

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>MoMo Vocabulary is a privately owned App. It focuses on building up vocabulary and words in English.</p> <p>App (iOS): Download from the Apple App store. App (Android): Download from your relevant App store, for example Huawei AppGallery or Xiaomi GetApps.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>This is an App for learning and practicing vocabulary, with flashcards and example sentences. Increase in vocabulary can support more diverse writing output. It is best for ages 12+ and for preparation for internationally recognized English exams, such as CET-4/6, TOEFL and IELTS</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>It is an APP, so can be used on your phone, tablet or computer.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Anytime.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>The resource is funded by its owner company's revenue, which comes from advertisements and premium subscriptions.</p> <p>As a customer, it is free to use. However, a premium subscription exists for more advanced functions.</p>

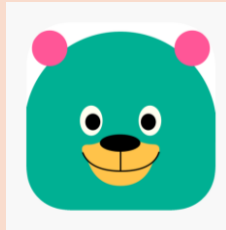
Baicizhan (百词斩)

(Similar alternative to MoMo Vocabulary.)



Ages 12+

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>Baicizhan (百词斩) is part of the company Chengdu Chaoyouai Technology Co., Ltd. (成都超有爱科技有限公司)</p> <p>App (iOS): Download from the Apple App store.</p> <p>App (Android): Download from your relevant App store, for example Huawei AppGallery or Xiaomi GetApps.</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>This is an App for learning and practicing vocabulary, with flashcards and example sentences. There is also a big focus on reading and readers, which can further enhance the vocabulary.</p> <p>Increase in vocabulary can support more diverse writing output.</p> <p>It is best for ages 12+ and for preparation for internationally recognized English exams, such as CET-4/6, TOEFL and IELTS</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>It is an APP, so can be used on your phone, tablet or computer.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Anytime.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>The resource is provided by its company, funded by revenue and investment.</p> <p>As a customer, basic vocabulary and exercises are free. However, the paid version will get the readers, and increased word list, more explanations and examples, and no advertisements.</p>



Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>Khan Academy Kids is an App by Khan Academy, a not-for-profit organization.</p> <p>Apple: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/khan-academy-kids/id1378467217 Android: https://khan-academy-kids.en.uptodown.com/android#google_vignett</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>Khan Academy Kids is an App in English offering games, activities and exercises in different subjects, including English phonics.</p> <p>For writing specifically, there are exercises involving tracing letters.</p> <p>Because only foundational writing skills in the form of tracing is included, the age-range is 2 – 6.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>It is an APP, used on your phone.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Anytime.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>Khan Academy is not-for-profit. Funding comes from donations and sponsors.</p> <p>As a user, it is free.</p>

Jolly Phonics App



Ages 4 - 8

Person or Organization Providing Resource:	<p>The Jolly Phonics App is from Jolly Learning Ltd a company from the UK. It is part of the Jolly Phonics learning method for learning phonics.</p> <p>Apple: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/jolly-phonics-lessons/id1149029299 Android: https://jolly-phonics-lessons.en.softonic.com/android</p>
Details of Support Provided and Who it is For:	<p>This is an App primarily for supporting with all round phonics learning, for reading and writing.</p> <p>For writing specifically, there are activities involving tracing letters. Blending and segmenting word practice will support with spelling and writing later on.</p>
Where the Resource is Available:	<p>It is an APP, used on your phone.</p>
When the Resource is Available:	<p>Anytime.</p>
How the Resource is Funded:	<p>Jolly Learning Ltd is a company. Much of the funding now comes from sales and other revenue.</p> <p>Only a small number of introductory features are available for free. To access the majority of content, you will need to subscribe for a paid version.</p>



Good luck!