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**At last! A book about teaching foundational writing skills to school-aged students. This practical, insightful, and evidence-based book is just what every teacher ordered.**

**Steve Graham,**  
Regent and Warner Professor,  
Arizona State University



# Foundational Skills for Writing

## A Brain-Based Guide to Strengthen Executive Functions, Language, and Other Cornerstones for Writers

Melanie Meehan and Maggie Beattie Roberts

Writing is more than putting words down on paper—it's a tool for thinking and learning, a vehicle for expression and connection.

Yet, writing instruction has often received less attention than reading, even though it's just as complex. In fact, writing is one of the most complex tasks the brain coordinates, drawing simultaneously on language skills, executive functions, and motor processes.

***Foundational Skills for Writing*** tackles that complexity by offering evidence-based methods, purposeful strategies, and playful approaches teachers can use to nurture essential writing skills. By supporting educators in developing the cognitive, motor, and language foundations of writing, this book helps students succeed academically, express themselves authentically, and connect meaningfully with the world.

Drawing from brain-based research and the science of writing, this book provides:

- Clear explanations of each foundational writing skill, including executive functions, oral language, motor skills, handwriting, spelling, and sentence construction.
- Practical connections to neurological research on the writing brain and how writing skills develop.
- Strategies, lessons, and routines that strengthen writing foundations during busy school days.
- Instructional activities to introduce, reinforce, and review foundational writing skills across primary, elementary, and middle school classrooms—skills that support growth in every area of literacy.
- Vetted tools, authentic examples, and practical scaffolds—making it a read-today, teach-tomorrow resource for immediate classroom impact.

Educators will gain the knowledge and tools to nurture young writers' growth, support them through challenges, and build their confidence and competence.