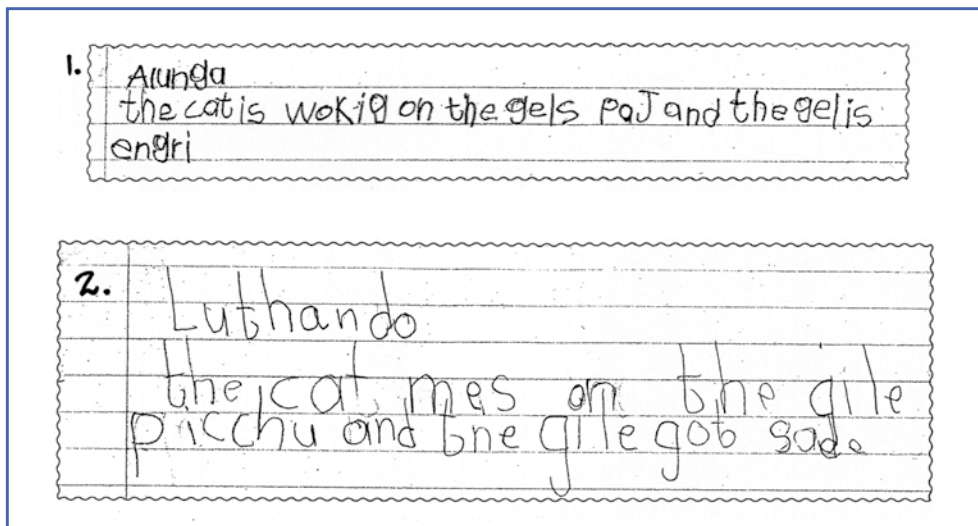


“Have-a-go” writing and “invented spelling”

A teacher showed the children in her class a picture. The picture was of a little girl drawing, and a cat walking over her picture. The teacher talked about the picture with the children, and then asked the children to write a sentence about the picture. These are sentences from two of the children.



Look carefully at the writing above then answer the questions together.

- Can you read the writing?
- What is each child trying to say?
- Why do you think it is important for children to try and write even if their spelling is not perfect?

Now read on. You can see from the children's writing that they are trying to tell a story. Even though they cannot spell all the words they need, they have tried to spell the words. We call this **invented spelling** or **“have-a-go” writing** – it makes sense if we sound it out, but the spelling is not correct. It shows that the children can use the knowledge they have about sounds/letters and writing, and slowly they will learn the correct spelling. The more we encourage children to write in this way, the more confident they become, and the more they write. Children become writers by writing.

Making sense of sentences:

1. The cat is walking on the girl's page and the girl is angry.
2. The cat messed on the girl's picture and the girl got sad.