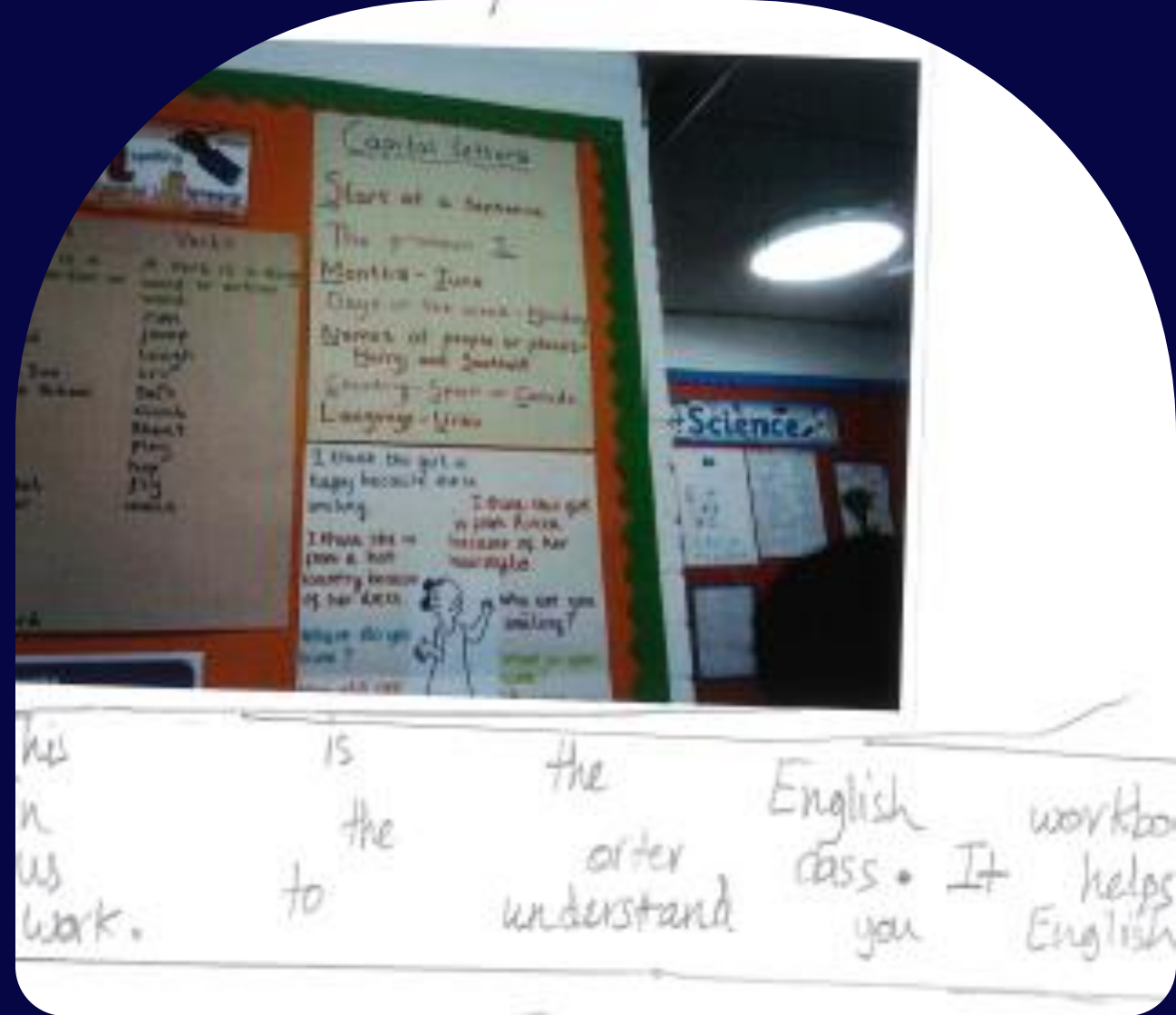


Exploring the posters

Work, play and learning



A question that emerged from the wider project was whether the children saw reading and writing as work or play. This question was discussed during the poster drafting process and this presentation offers a small selection of individual children's thoughts, showing their different ideas about the topic.

Please note all children's contributions have been anonymised. Children are referred to by a code, for example *B24*. Many thanks to the children who consented to their posters being shown in this presentation.

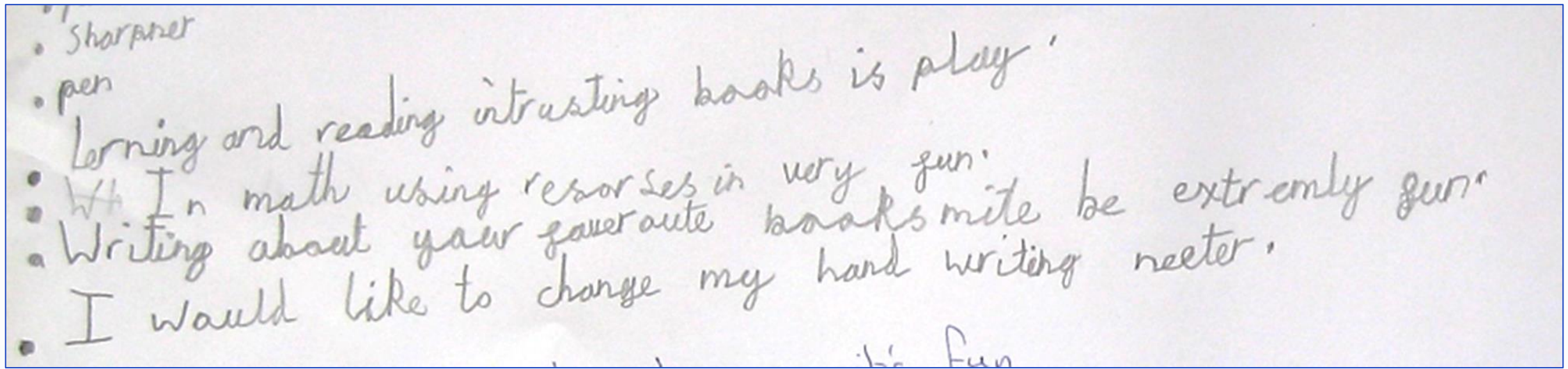
**Can reading
and writing be
play?**



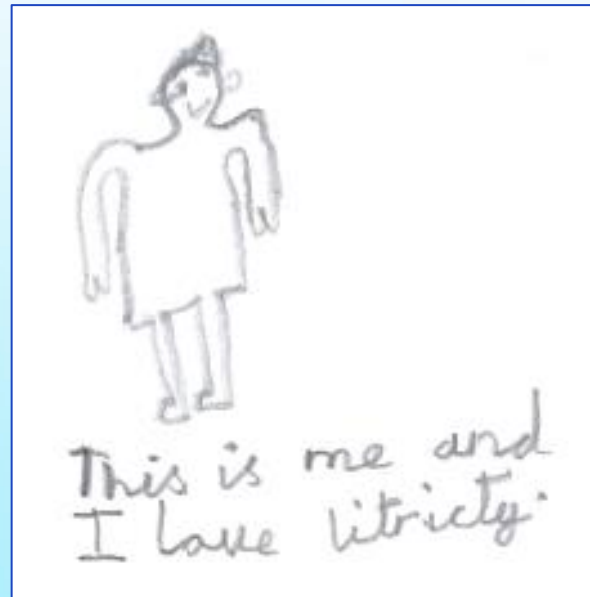
A nuanced discussion...

The question 'Is literacy work or play?' developed throughout the drafting process, with the children holding nuanced and individual views. As the discussion progressed, some children argued that you had to learn to read before you could read and write for either work or play. For others work, play and learning could not be easily distinguished.

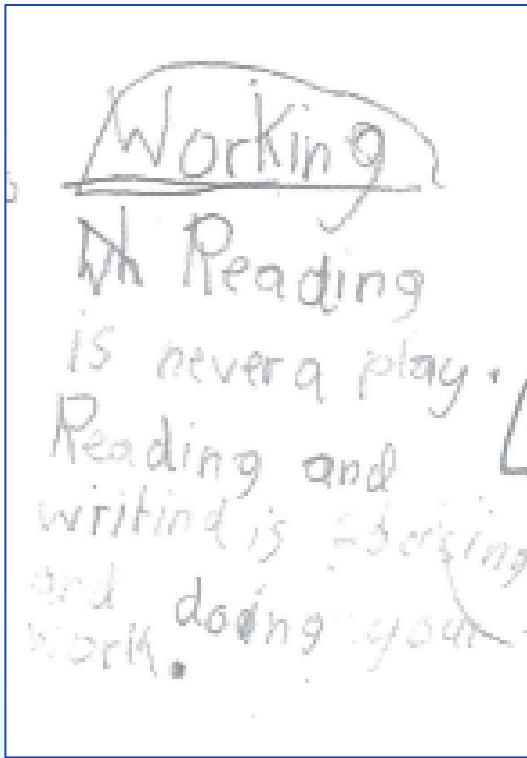
The following is a small selection of views from children who gave permission for their posters to be displayed on this project page.



Initially, all the children insisted that both reading and writing were work, with some adding that learning was also involved. B24 took the debate in a new direction, explaining that aspects of reading and writing could be fun and interesting and therefore play.



- Learning and reading interesting books is play
- In math using resources is very fun
- Writing about your favourite books might be extremely fun
- I would like to change my handwriting neater



Working

Reading is never a play. Reading and writing is focusing and doing your work. (Early Draft)

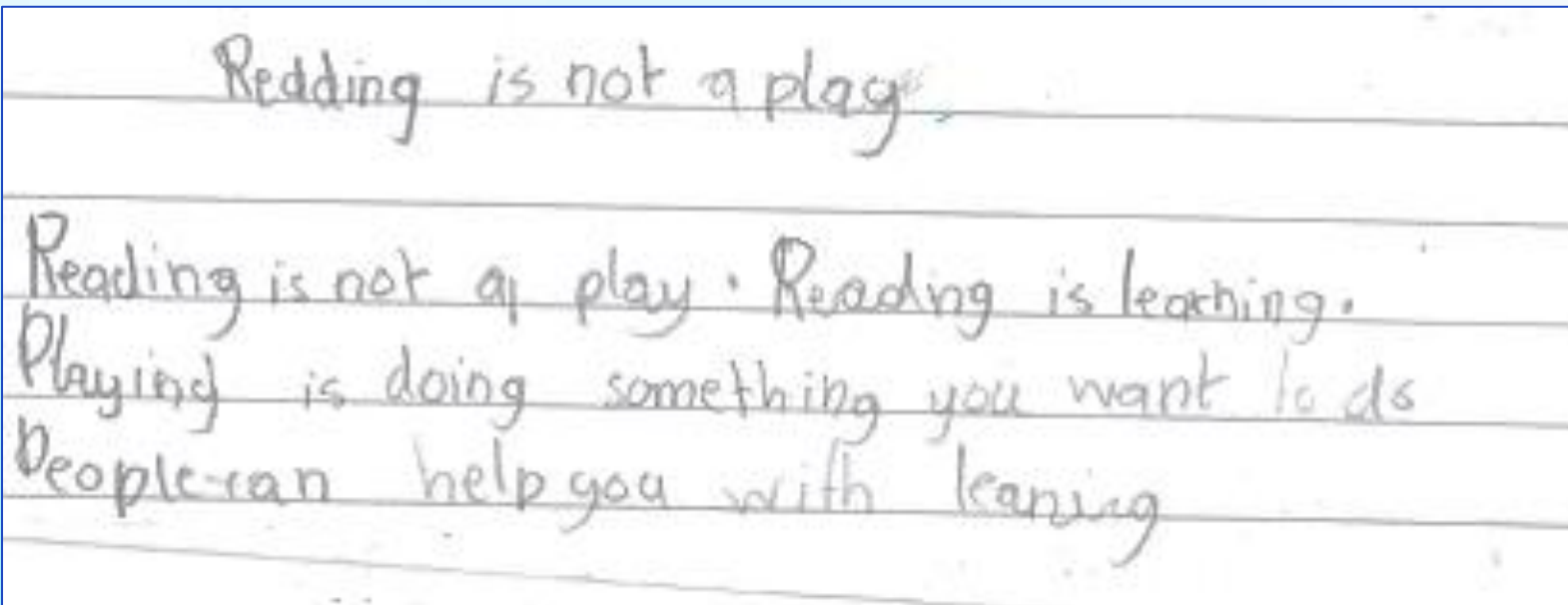
A28's ideas developed over the process of drafting and producing his final poster. The top left image is from an initial draft where reading is associated with focusing and doing your work. The bottom right image, from the final draft, suggests reading is learning. It also expands the definition of what playing and learning might be.

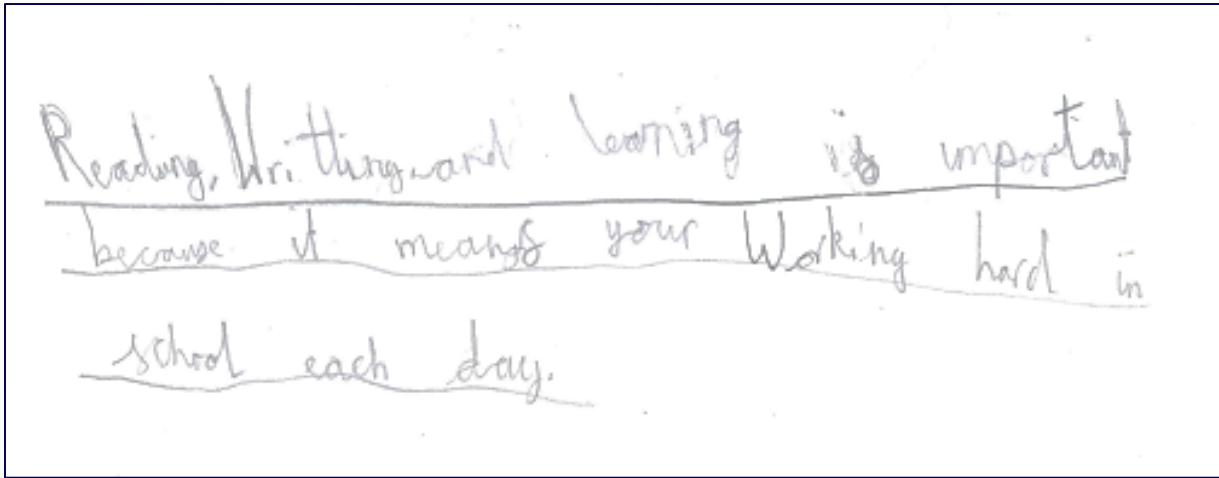
Reading is not a play

Reading is not a play. Reading is learning.

Playing is doing something you want to do.

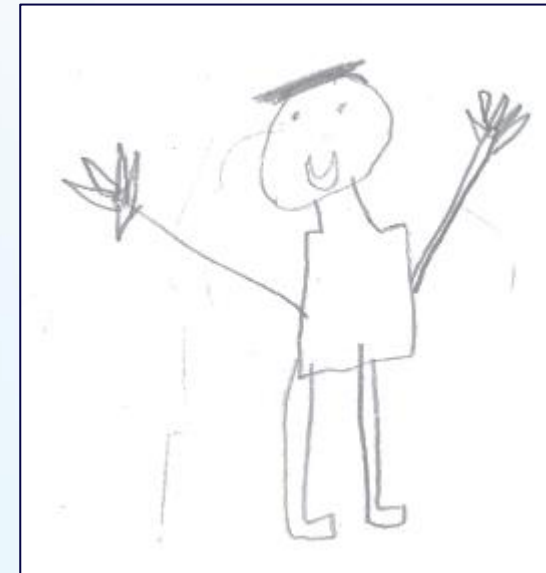
People can help you with learning. (Final Draft)





Reading, writing and learning is important because it means you're working hard in school each day. (Final Draft)

Here, B30 associated reading writing and learning with 'working hard'. His value for 'working hard' in reading writing and learning was reflected in his commitment to developing his English reading and writing skills.



I work for my self and I want to go to the next level.

you can't work if you don't learn.

I work for myself and I want to go to the next level. You can't work if you don't learn. (Early draft)

Reading and writing is focus.

Reading is information from books into your head.



Over his drafts and final poster, A32 offers some insights into reading, work and learning and what they might mean to him. Learning is related to having confidence, making progress and focusing.

Reading and writing is focus. Reading is information from books into your head. (Final draft)

We can use resources like pencils and science to learn and be confident. In confidence you have to not be shy to do learnings. (Final draft)

Working

We can use resources like pencils and science to learn and be confident

In confidence you have to not be very shy to do learnings. Our new book in

This data raises further questions for exploration as the project enters its analysis phase

- ▶ How do the children's poster contributions compare with their contributions to the overall project?
- ▶ How are the children positioning themselves – for example as learners or users of language and literacy?
- ▶ How do the children understand the terms 'work' 'play' and 'learning'?
- ▶ What implications might these attitudes have for children as literacy practitioners?