

WRITING



Facts about Writing



- When a young child scribbles, it is his/her first step toward writing.
- Drawing and coloring are important activities for a child to practice in order to learn proper gripping and control of writing tools.
- Children need to practice with a variety of writing tools, including standard-size pencils, pens, crayons, markers, paintbrushes, chalk. By using different tools, children learn that each tool feels different, but accomplishes the same thing. Drawing helps children understand the meaning behind pictures.

Physical Well-Being/Motor Development



Learning how to hold a pencil, crayon, marker, or pen is a fine motor skill that children learn over time. Other fine motor skills include cutting with scissors, buttoning, zipping, snapping, and tying shoes. It is important to provide opportunities for your child to strengthen hand muscles needed for these skills before they enter school.

Language and Communication



Writing and drawing are important methods of communication. When your child first begins expressing ideas through drawing, it is important to ask them to tell you about what they have drawn. This gives the child the opportunity to verbally connect the ideas that they expressed on paper. To connect drawing and verbal language to written language, write down what your child tells you about their picture. This allows your child to see the connection between each type of communication, and also models writing skills for them to follow.

Books That Encourage Writing



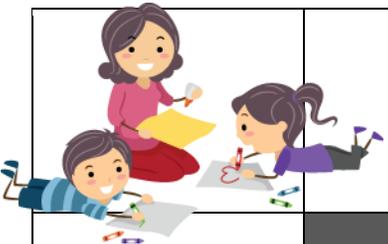
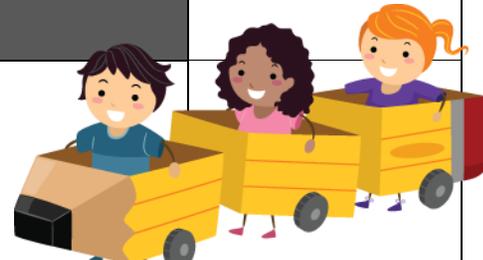
- ***Draw Me a Star*** –Eric Carle
- ***Rocket Writes a Story*** –Tad Hills
- ***Harold and the Purple Crayon*** –Crockett Johnson
- ***Library Mouse (series)*** –Daniel Kirk
- ***More Bears!*** –Kenn Nesbitt; Troy Cummings

Activities That Encourage Writing



- Scribbling, coloring, and drawing are all forms of pre-writing. Encourage your child to create with different writing tools as they progress through each stage—they all lead to writing.
- Encourage your child to write the letters in his/her name. This is the most meaningful printed word for a child, and often the one they are most interested in learning to write.
- Write the alphabet on lined paper with a yellow highlighter. Encourage your child to trace letters with a pencil.
- Provide regular size pencils for children to learn with. Using fatter pen-cils for children to learn with actually makes it more difficult for children to learn to write with regular size tools when it is required in school. In order for your child to develop the correct pencil grip, it is important for them to have practice with the tools they will be using in school.
- Allow your child to help with the grocery list by drawing pictures of a few items and/or checking items off the list as you purchase them.
- Write letters, cards, and notes to family members and encourage your child to sign their name to cards that you give to loved ones.

Session 4: Writing

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Make many different types of writing tools available for your child to use for drawing and writing.		Write letters on writing paper with a highlighter. Encourage your child to trace over the letters with a pencil.
	Ask your child to help you make a grocery list by drawing pictures of some of the items.		Play restaurant. Encourage your child to take your order and write it down, or draw it.		Write a letter together with your child and mail it to a family member.	
Allow your child to play in shaving cream on a table. Encourage them to write their name in the cream.		Visit the library! Look up books together using the catalog. Write down the call numbers together.		Ask your child to draw/write a recipe card for making a sandwich.		Help your child work on making shapes with a pencil by doing connect the dot puzzles together.
	Use play dough together in order for your child to strengthen hand muscles for writing.		Have a small wipe-off board and markers available for your child to practice with.		Ask your child to draw different shapes with different writing tools.	
Supply washable paint and brushes. Ask your child to paint a picture of you.		Visit the library! Look for books about writing and drawing.		Help your child practice writing letters with their finger in the air.		

Early Literacy Practice: Writing

The activities this month will help your child develop hand strength and hand-eye coordination—skills needed for writing. The activities will also promote your child’s awareness of the connection between written words and language.

Readiness Domain Focus: Cognitive/General Knowledge; Language and Communication; Health and Physical Well-Being