

Stages of Early Writing Development

<p><u>Stage 1: (Ages 0-2)</u> <u>Prewriting</u></p> <p>From birth to the time your child picks up a pen, there is a much you can do to prepare them to read and write!</p>	<p><u>Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Read books aloud to your child. -Talk, sing, and rhyme with your child. -Fingerplays -Talk about objects in their environment. -Let them explore with leaves, sticks, dirt, water, and other sensory materials. -Finger painting 	<p><u>Tools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books • Musical instruments • Access to printed words • Items in nature and your backyard • Paint and media
<p><u>Stage 2: (Ages 2-3)</u> <u>Random Scribbling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child makes random contact with paper • Very little muscle control • Grasps pen with full fist • Exploring with space and form • Record of ideas and thoughts • Proud accomplishment! 	<p><u>Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Encourage exploration with paper, pens, chalk, and markers. -Playdough, beading, tearing paper, and & tools requiring small muscles in hands. -Practice climbing, running, hopping, throwing, and catching. -Infuse child's home environment with words and labels. -Legos, blocks, and painting. 	<p><u>Tools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large markers and crayons • Unlined large paper • Large strings & beads • Puzzles • Books • Comfortable writing center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - child size tables & chairs - easy access to materials - Trashcan (celebrate mistakes!)

Stage 3: (Age 3)

Controlled Scribbling

- Pretend writing is produced as child scribbles across paper in a linear fashion.
- Pattern of writing is repeated over and over.
- Increased muscle control.
- Art may begin to represent forms such as a head with eyes, but very underdeveloped.

Activities:

- Express the value of your child's hard work.
- Invite child to cut with scissors.
- Show them how to secure paper while writing with opposite hand.
- Blocks, puzzles, playdough, beading, etc.
- Practice balancing, and hopping on one foot
- Rhyming, singing, and fingerplays.
- Ask your child questions about stories when you're reading to them

Tools:

- Large markers and crayons
- Unlined large paper
- Small strings & beads
- Puzzles
- Books
- **Comfortable writing center**
 - child size tables & chairs
 - easy access to materials
 - Trash can (celebrate mistakes!)
- Tape
- Scissors

Stage 4: (Ages 3-4)

Mock Writing

- Letter-like forms are made (circles, squares, etc) often appearing in groups.
- May look like letters but are misshapen, combined, inverted, or reversed.
- Child writes their name or letters in their name.
- Child understands symbols are used to convey meaning.
- Child will ask, "What does this say?"
- Little orientation or spacing.
- Draws somewhat more detailed figures (head with legs, arms, face, and hair).

Activities:

- Dictate your child's words about their art. Encourage your child to tell you a story and write their words down.
- Put writing tools such as a clipboard with paper and pens in their pretend play area.
- Have child sort & fold laundry and put away silverware.
- Make tools that encourage fine motor development available (legos, puzzles, beads, scissors, etc).
- Talk about letters and words you see such as street and building signs.

Tools:

- Large markers and crayons
- Unlined large paper
- Small strings & beads
- Puzzles
- Books
- **Comfortable writing center**
 - child size tables & chairs
 - easy access to materials
 - Trash can (celebrate mistakes!)
- Tape and scissors
- Envelopes
- Hole punch
- String
- Stapler
- Alphabet stones, foam letters and alphabet magnets

Stage 5: (Ages 4-5)

Writing Letters

- Child writes their name.
- Children name and write letters, but typically still reversed.
- Little awareness of letters and their corresponding sound.
- Child will mostly write consonants.
- Strings of upper case letters.
- No spacing between words.
- Drawings are more refined and represent clear and detailed figures.
- Child may like to created story to accompany their drawings.

Activities:

Activities from previous stages all still valuable.

Make shopping lists with your child; write notes to family members or the tooth fairy.

Show your child you value their work! Create a file for them to save their work in, and display it around the house.

Encourage your child to make their own book with pictures that they can write letters and words to tell their story.

Put writing tools such as a clipboard with paper and pens in their pretend play area.

Tools:

- **Comfortable writing center**
 - child size tables & chairs
 - easy access to materials
 - Trash can (celebrate mistakes!)
- Smaller/skinny writing tools.
- Lined paper
- Journal
- Envelopes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Staplers
- Hole Punch
- Mail Box/File
- Books, magazines, catalogs.
- Alphabet visual available (blocks, stones, posters, stencils).

Stage 6: (Ages 5-6)

Writing Words

- Using inventive spelling, child will group letters making up words.
- Mature grip has developed.
- Great muscle control.
- Bi-lateral coordination (using both hands).
- Dominant writing hand used.
- Upper and lower case letters used.
- Create very detailed and elaborate drawings.
- Will use whole paper.
- Can adjust size of writing to fit space on paper

Activities:

-Activities from previous stages all still valuable.

-Make shopping lists with your child; write notes to family members or the tooth fairy.

-Show off and display your child's work! Create a file for them to save their work in.

-Encourage your child to make their own book with pictures that they can write letters and words to tell their story.

-Put writing tools such as a clipboard with paper and pens in their pretend play area.

Tools:

- **Comfortable writing center**
 - child size tables & chairs
 - easy access to materials
 - Trash can (celebrate mistakes!)
- Smaller/skinny writing tools.
- Lined paper
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- Envelopes
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