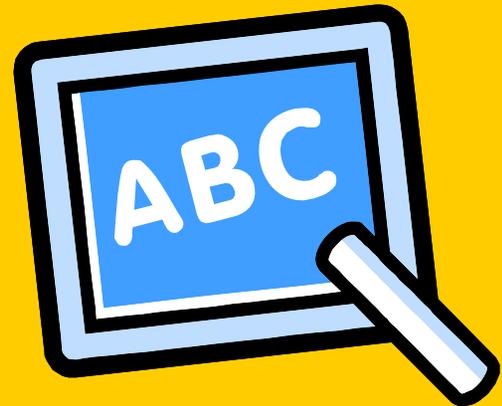


Pre-Writing and Writing Activities for Preschoolers

Presentation courtesy of WCESC Preschool

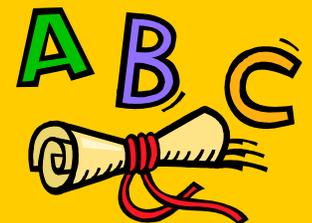


Pre-Writing Skill Development

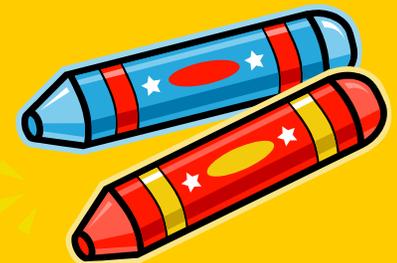
- Help your child move from:
 - tracing straight lines
 - to tracing zigzag lines
 - to tracing curved lines
 - to tracing horizontal and vertical lines
 - to tracing diagonal lines (left to right,
right to left)
 - to tracing circles.



- When playing music, give your child juggle scarves or ribbon wands to hold/use. Show them how to go down, up, and across with the material.
- When coloring with crayons, try having your child color while lying on their tummies, or have them stand while coloring a piece of paper taped to the wall, a wall easel, or a floor easel. Both positions help promote grasp and a proper position of the wrist, as well as strengthens their arms.



- When coloring, try giving your child finger crayons, broken or short pieces of crayons. This will help promote a proper grasp so they cannot “fist” (improper grasp) the crayons easily.
- When coloring, encourage scribbling first, imitation of vertical stroked second, horizontal strokes next, then circular motions, and finally, copying a circle. This is the proper developmental sequence of pre-writing skills. Remember, this is a time to explore with crayons, not being confined to a specific shape.



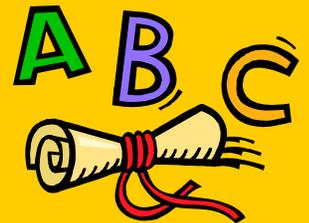
- Partially fill a ziploc baggie with colored hair gel or colored shampoo. Seal the bags and show your child how to make lines with their fingers. As they draw with their fingers, the material will be displaced so they can see their strokes. You can also use dry ingredients on a tray, such as kool-aid powder, dry pudding mix, or sand.



- Give your child paint brushes and have them paint with water on the pavement, walls, or chalkboard.
- When using play-doh, show your child how to make lines up, down, and across using a plastic pizza cutter



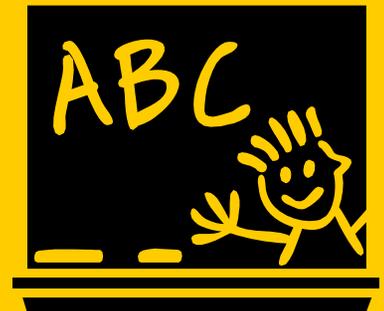
- Save junk mail with forms to fill out. Have your child practice writing her name on the unwanted junk mail forms.
- Make a dot-to-dot outline of letters (especially use the letters of your child's name).



- With your child, on construction paper, use glue to draw the letters of the alphabet or your child's name. Sprinkle glitter over the letters. Shake off the extra glitter and practice the name of each letter.
- Put up a string like a clothesline. Write the alphabet on clothespins (write vowels and other frequently used letters on more than one). Have your child spell out her name or other words using the clothespins on the clothesline.



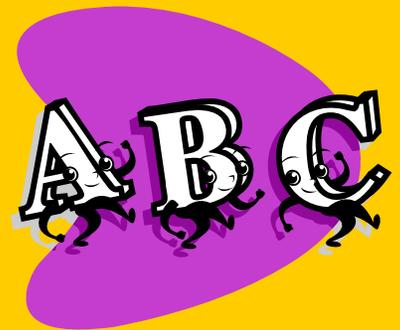
- Have your child use magnetic letters to make words. The magnets will help your child feel the shape of the letters when placed on a magnetic surface.
- Label 26 ziploc bags with a letter of the alphabet. Place inside the bags items which begin with each letter sound. For example, the letter "A" bag could include small plastic apples, alligators, ants, etc.



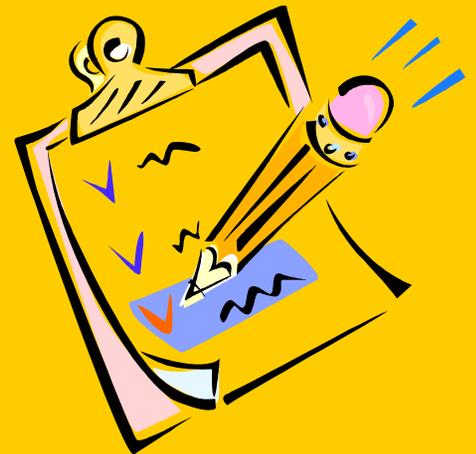
- Teach your child the alphabet in sign language- they love this activity, especially when you teach them to spell their name in sign language.
- Encourage your child to read his own writing. You can compliment your child for reading his own writing and encourage him to write more.



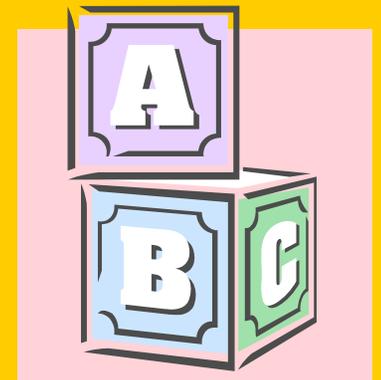
- Try using different things, such as “funny foam” or finger paints instead of crayons when working on imitating strokes. You can also use sponges, various sized paintbrushes or even q-tips.
- Print one letter at the top of a paper. Below this, write many letters of the alphabet in no particular order. Have your child circle the letters that match the one printed at the top. Have him place an “X” over the ones that do not match



- Have your child form letters out of play-doh or modeling clay. Then have him close his eyes, feel a letter, and try to identify the letters by their shape.
- Show your child how you write – explain what you’re doing as you address a letter or while writing grocery lists. You can even enlist their help in figuring out the first letter to write in “bananas” or “milk” as you make the grocery list together.



- Encourage your child to stack blocks, pick up toys, finger paint, and roll play-doh shapes to help develop the fine motor skills necessary for writing.
- Label objects in your child's room, such as "books" or "door." Make a sign for your child's bedroom door or a "mailbox" for special notes that also draw attention to the written word.



- Use license plates to trace letters with our fingers or make crayon rubbings.
- Have your child look for letters around the neighborhood. Take pictures of the letters he finds and put them in alphabetical order later.



- As your child begins to develop a knowledge of letters or numbers, “draw” one on her back (or on her hand with her eyes shut) with your finger to see if she can guess what letter it is. Have her draw one for you to guess.
- Use sidewalk chalk to draw a really large letter or number on the driveway and have your child ride his bike or skate on the letter path. “Closed” letters like O, Q, D, B and numbers like 8 and 0 are fun with this.

