

Developing early writing skills


There are a variety of skills that a child needs to learn before they can start to form letters using a pencil these include developing a pencil grasp, control and the ability to copy pre-writing shapes. These skills follow a developmental pathway

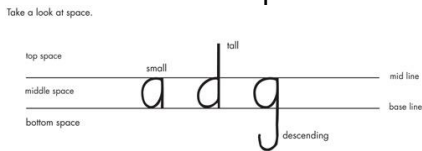
Pre directional shapes: | --- O / + □ \ x ~~~~~

- Using fingers, toy cars, marbles, sponge, sticks, straws etc. to draw pre-directional shapes in different textures i.e. Shaving Foam, Sand, Play dough, Paint
- Standing in front of a wall with a large piece of paper draw pre-directional shapes using a large paint brush.
- Make pre-directional shapes out of a lace/string or pipe cleaners/straws that are then stuck onto card and encourage the child to run their fingers over them.
- Draw/colour on different surfaces e.g. sandpaper, corrugated cardboard, chalkboard
- Make rubbings e.g. of leaves
- Colouring in (staying in the lines)
- Draw around own hand
- Drawing around different 3D shapes (e.g. find objects in the room of each shape)
- Make “roads” for child to draw between the lines
- Experiment with chunky crayons, chinks, glue sticks and paintbrushes.



Next step...Moving onto letters

- Continue to use lots of multisensory media such as shaving foam, sand, large playground chalk, paintbrush and water
- Pencil on paper; Handwriting without tears worksheets or similar are appropriate. 
- Wet dry try method on the blackboard:
 - ✓ Adult to use chalk to write letter on blackboard, demonstrate using wet paper towel to wipe over the letter in the correct formation then repeat with dry paper towel- Child then repeats.
- Emphasise correct start and end points during all methods (most letters start from the top with a few exceptions)
- The use of double spaced lines can help with learning the positioning of letters



Letter groups:

This is the letter grouping we use as they work through the movement patterns required; you may find others more convenient.

Magic C Letters	c	o	a	s	d	g	q
Slide down/climb up letters	v	w	u	y	x	z	e
Dive down letters	l	t	h	b	k	p	f
Pencil Letters	i	j	r	n	m		

Other Multi-sensory ideas:

- ☺ Writing on sand paper
- ☺ Writing on the back of the child, they have to guess the letter
- ☺ Letters made from playdoh
- ☺ Wiki-sticks
- ☺ Roll n write letters

