

Reading to Your Child

Ask questions when you are reading together. For example:

- What do you see on this page?
- How do you think the characters feel?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- When you have finished, talk about how your child feels about the book:
- What did they like?
- What didn't they like?
- What can they remember about what happened?
- Who was their favorite character? Why?
- Link the story to their own experiences. Can they remember when they did something similar?
- Most importantly, have fun!

What if English isn't my first Language?

- You don't have to only read books in English.
- Carry on sharing books, stories and rhymes in your first language!
- Your child may use English words – you can still reply or repeat what they have said in your own language. Children love the sound of your voice and can cope with two languages.
- Sharing stories is about more than just learning to read – it's about snuggling up and spending time together.

Tips for reading with children of any age

- **Set aside some time** Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.
- **Ask your child to choose a book** Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.
- **Sit close together** Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.
- **Point to the pictures** If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.
- **Encourage your child to talk about the book** Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.
- **And lastly, above all - make it fun!** It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this!

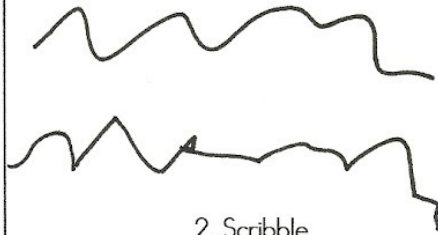
These are the steps a child goes through when they are learning to write. 🖋️ It is a *PROCESS!*

EVOLUTION OF A CHILD'S WRITING

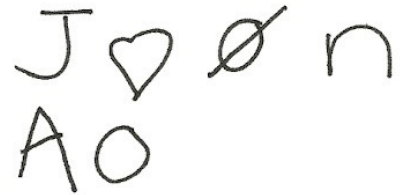
(Drawings are an important part of a child's writing and often a child will repeat the theme of his/her drawing on subsequent pages)



1. Scribble Stage
(Starting point any place on the page)



2. Scribble
(Left to right progression)



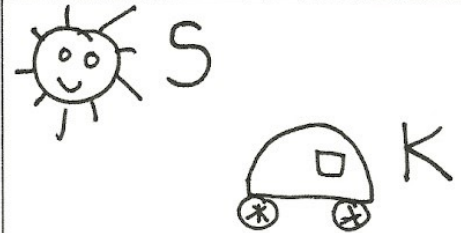
3. Mock Letters
(Can be personal or conventional)



4. Letter String
(Left to right and progressively downward)



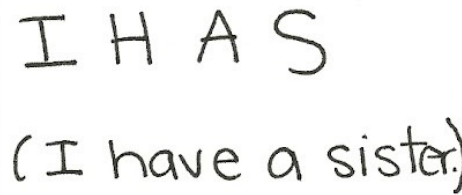
5. Groups of letters with space in between to resemble words



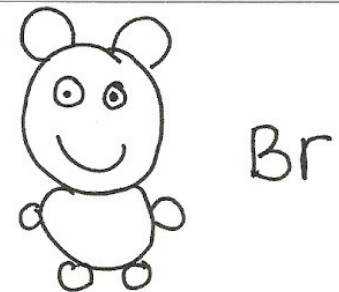
6. Picture Labeling
(Matching beginning letter to sound)



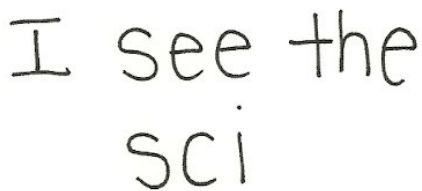
7. Copies Environmental Print



8. Uses first letter of a word to represent the word



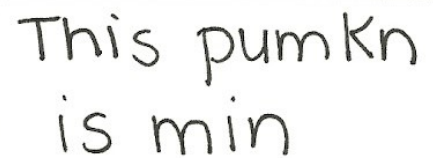
9. Uses beginning letter and ending letter to represent the word



10. Hears Medial Sounds
(Writes word with beginning, medial and ending letters)



11. Phrase Writing



12. Whole Sentence Writing

BUILDING Math Skills At HOME

With a little creativity, you can make math lots of fun! Here are some easy things that you can do at home to help your child with math.

- There are many games that you probably already have at home that encourage development in math: Yahtzee (basic addition), Connect Four (problem solving,, developing strategies), Puzzles (spatial awareness), Card Games (have players flip cards and greatest or least number wins), Candy Land (make your own game cards and use math facts instead of colors), Monopoly (money), Battleship (coordinate graphs), etc.
- Talk about the calendar with your child. Make it exciting by looking forward to special events. It is fun for them to count the weeks and days until birthdays or to see what day of the week a specific holiday will be on this year.
- You can help your child learn to count money by playing store with them. Use real coins and let them be the "cashier".
- Use an empty egg carton as a counting tool to practice addition and subtraction skills up to 10. Simply place an object in slots and use the empty slots to count up to/from 10.
- Notice the clock. Tell them that they can play a game at a certain time. Begin with easy times (7:00) and get progressively more difficult (7:30 and 7:45).
- Bake with your child. Read the instructions on the back of the box and allow them to measure ingredients.
- You can develop a better understanding of fractions by discussing equal parts with your child. Any time you bake a frozen pizza, it is an opportunity to let them understand what $1/6$ means.
- Making flash cards of basic addition or subtraction facts can be an easy way to practice. You can make it a game by seeing how many they can answer in a minute. If they improve their score over time, reward them.
- You can make pot holders on a small loom. This is a good way to practice making and extending patterns.
- Any time there is a project at home that involves measuring inches or feet, let your child help! This allows them to understand that the concepts they are learning in school have real world applications.
- Point out shapes and discuss them. If you see a "YIELD" sign, discuss that it is a triangle and ask your child how many sides would be on 3 "YIELD" signs.