



Readiness for Handwriting

| Age | Pre-Writing Expectation |
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| 1-2 Years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Randomly Scribbles• Spontaneously scribbles in vertical/horizontal and/or circular direction• Imitates a horizontal/vertical/circular direction |
| 2-3 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imitates a horizontal line• Imitates a vertical line• Imitates a circle |
| 3-4 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies a horizontal line• Copies a vertical line• Copies a circle• Imitates a cross• Imitates a square |
| 4-5 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies a cross• Traces a line• Copies a square• Imitates an X• Imitates a triangle• Grasps pencil in writing position |
| 5-6 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies an X• Copies a Triangle• Recognizes difference in big and small lines or curves |

Pre-writing skills are the fundamental skills children need to develop before they are able to write. These skills contribute to a child's ability to hold and use a pencil, and the ability to draw, write, copy, and color.

To help your students develop pre-writing skills, encourage participation in activities that involve grasping and manipulating small objects such as: drawing, puzzles, opening containers, lacing cards, stringing beads, using tongs or scissors, and building with construction toys such as Legos.