



Products
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February 09

Writing Center



PARENT EDITION

Discover Writing Success™

Pre-writing and Visual Motor Skills

Dear Parent/Guardian: This month in the writing center we are focusing on pre-writing and visual motor skills needed to develop proper writing habits from the start. Each week will focus on a different aspect of these skills. Throughout this month keep an eye on proper pencil grasp and keep using the **Grotto Grip®** on every pencil, every day!

Here are some activities you can encourage at home to reinforce what your child is learning at school:

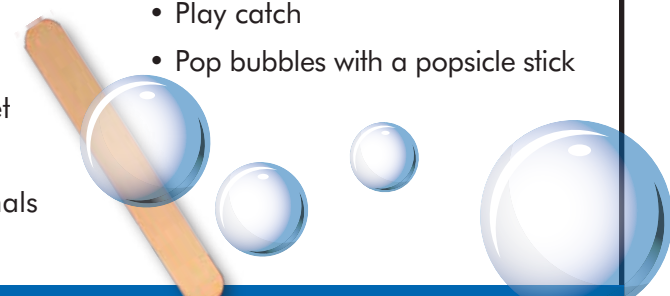


Week 1 - Target Practice

A child who can accurately hit a target with a ball or beanbag has the skills to accurately hit the writing line with his pencil. Start with a 2' target from 5' away and make more or less challenging depending on your child's skills. Encourage both overhand and underhand throwing.



- Throw beanbags or soft, small balls at:
 - o Stacked, empty tissue boxes
 - o Clean 2-liters filled partially with sand
 - o Plastic cones
 - o Empty laundry basket
 - o Stacked blocks
 - o Stacked stuffed animals
- Squirt water at targets on outside walls/play set
- Throw snowballs at trees or other outside targets
- Play catch
- Pop bubbles with a popsicle stick



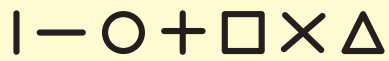
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Week 2 – Pre-writing shape review

The sequence of pre-writing designs is vertical line, horizontal line, circle, cross, square, X and triangle. A child needs to be able to form these shapes to be able to correctly form all the capital letters of the alphabet.



- Practice the above pre-writing shapes in various ways (make sure to encourage all lines to be drawn from top-to-bottom and from left-to-right):
 - In sand
 - In shaving cream
 - In finger-paint
 - In play dough
 - With blocks
 - With popsicle sticks



Once these shapes are mastered, see if your child can combine the shapes to make different designs or copy designs you create. Also see if your child can copy the shapes or designs from memory.

- Try **Shape Builders™ Learn to Draw** to teach and reinforce proper formation of pre-writing shaped

Week 3 – Pencil control

Be sure your child is holding the pencil or crayon using three fingers (thumb, index finger, and middle finger) use a **Grotto Grip®** to train proper muscles for writing.

- Complete mazes
- Complete dot-to-dots (Try **Connect with Color™** for children who do not yet have letter or number recognition/sequencing)
- Trace simple pictures
- Outline a picture before coloring it (Try **Color Bound™**)



Week 4 – paper stabilization and combining pre-writing shapes

Shape Builders™ Stencil Kit will encourage stabilization of the paper while writing, spacing skills and direction following/sequencing.

- Complete the pictures using the provided stencil, then color the pictures
- Make pictures of the pre-writing shapes on a light brite® (place a blank piece of paper on the light brite®, draw the shape on the paper with a marker so the holes show, finally allow your child to poke the pegs through the holes along the shape)

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These activities are meant to be fun and motivating. Daily practice will help to improve your child's writing success. Happy Writing!