

# Writing Center



February 09

TEACHER EDITION

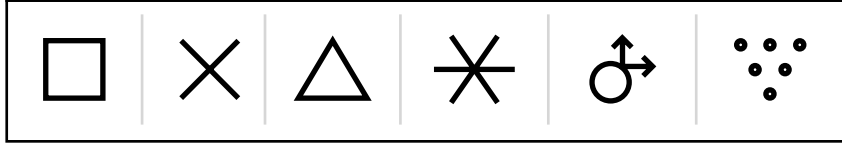
Discover Writing Success™

## Pre-writing and Visual Motor Skills

This month we will review pre-writing shapes (the building blocks for good letter formation) and visual motor skills (eye-hand coordination for pencil control). Throughout this month keep an eye on proper pencil grasp and keep using the **Grotto Grip®** on every pencil, every day!



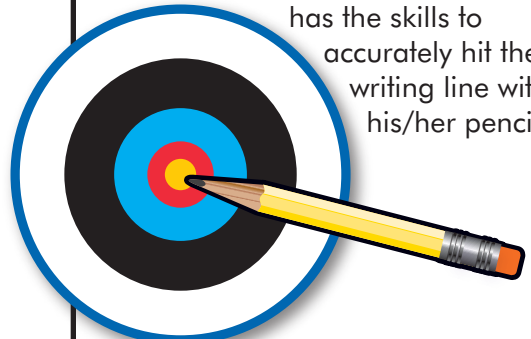
### geometric prewriting designs



4y-6m    4y-11m    5y-3m    5y-9m    6y-5m    7y-5m

### 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/her pencil.



**Provide:** beanbags or soft, small balls; empty tissue boxes to stack, clean 2-liter bottles filled part way with sand, laundry basket, plastic cones; Velcro balls and Velcro target; tape or mat on the floor to indicate the distance at which the kids should stand (try various distances and target sizes – start with 2' targets from 5' away).

Incorporate your target into your weekly theme (i.e., counting how many times they hit the target, hitting certain colors/shapes/numbers/letters, hit the capital and then the state). Encourage the kids to try to hit the target with both an overhand and an underhand throw.

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## Discover Writing Success™

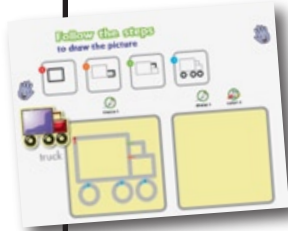


### Week 2 – Pre-writing shapes and designs – Rainbow Writing.

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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.

**Provide:** worksheet with 1-3 age appropriate pre-writing shapes, blank paper or chalkboard slate, and broken crayons/chalk (crayons broken into halves or thirds will reinforce the tripod grasp). This activity can be made more complex by combining the shapes to make pictures and even copying the shapes from memory. See **Shape Builders™ Learn to**



**Draw** for picture ideas.

Encourage the kids to trace each shape with 5-7 different colors then give them the blank paper to draw the shape/design/picture themselves. Give cues to reinforce top-to-bottom and left-to-right formation. Present the shapes in the developmental progression shown above.

### Week 3 – Pencil control

**Provide:** mazes and pencils (use the **Grotto Grip®** to train the muscles of the hand for proper pencil grasp)

Encourage the kids to take their time. The point of this activity is not only to solve the maze, but keep their pencil line in the middle of the path. This could be set up like a game which causes the kids to lose points each time their pencil line goes outside the

maze lines if that would be motivating to your class. Tell the kids "Don't run off the road!" Try laminating the pages of **Color Bound™** and providing dry erase markers to encourage drawing within pathways.

**Provide:** age appropriate dot-to-dots (**Connect with Color™** is great for children who do not yet know their numbers or letters in sequence, but know their colors), pencils or colored pencils (use the **Grotto Grip®** to train the muscles of the hand for proper pencil grasp), and broken crayons to strengthen pinch.

Encourage the kids to connect the dots with straight lines (you may have to cue them to take their time and look ahead for the next number, letter or color). Then encourage the kids to color the picture.

### Week 4 – paper stabilization and combining pre-writing shapes

Facilitates visual closure (skill needed for spacing between letters and words) and form constancy (skill needed for learning to write letters the same way each time).

**Provide:** **Shape Builders™ – Stencil Kit** and colored pencils or laminate and use thin dry erase markers. These worksheets provide step-by-step picture construction using pre-writing shapes on a stencil.

Encourage the kids to follow the steps in order to complete the drawings. Have the kids try to draw the pictures from memory for more challenge. Next, have the kids come up with their own stencil pictures using the shapes on the stencil.



February 09 Teacher Edition Page 2

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