



WRITING READINESS

Pre-Writing Skills

In short, pre-writing skills are the lines and strokes kids need to master and know BEFORE learning how to print the alphabet. Each of these lines are developed in a sequence, based on how old the child is.

Pre-Writing Expectations

1

1 to 2 years

- Randomly scribbles
- Spontaneously scribbles in vertical/horizontal and/or circular direction
- Imitates a horizontal/ vertical/ circular direction

2

2 to 3 years

- Imitates a horizontal line
- Imitates a vertical line
- Imitates a circle

3

3 to 4 years

- Copies a horizontal line
- Copies a vertical line
- Copies a circle
- Imitates +
- Imitates a square

4

4 to 5 years

- Copies a +
- Traces a line
- Copies a square
- Copies a / and \
- Imitates X
- Imitates a triangle
- Grasps pencil in writing position

5

5 to 6 years

- Copies X
- Copies a triangle
- Recognises between a big and small line or curve.

Beary Brave

Remember, these are suggested ages, every child develops at their own pace and so the ages may not be exact to your child's development



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Pre-Writing Line Activities

Handwriting is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn in their academic life. But the beginning of handwriting starts long before your child ever learns to write their first letter.

What are Pre-Writing Lines?

Pre-writing lines are lines and shapes that toddlers and preschoolers learn in a developmental sequence that help them to form letters later on for handwriting. Lines down, across, cross shapes, circles, squares, diagonal lines are all considered pre-writing lines. - Growing Hands On Kids

Pre-writing lines are typically practiced on paper or tracing boards. In addition the activities listed below can be great fun and helps with fine motorskills, a critical component for the development of your littles handwriting.

SANDTRAY

Equipment:

Tray
Sand
Toothbrush

- Pour a thin layer of sand on the bottom of the tray.
- Place a visual prompt of the pre-writing line above the tray and have your child use a paintbrush to make the pre-writing line in the sand.
- Using the paintbrush will also encourage proper pencil grasp!

SHAVING CREAM TRACE

Equipment:

Tray
Shaving cream
Toothbrush

- Shaving cream is a great sensory medium to use for sensory play. Place a visual prompt of the pre-writing line above the tray
- Spray some shaving cream on a tray and let your little trace the pre-writing lines in it with their finger (pointer finger preferred).
- You can also add food coloring if you want some added visual input. Just make sure to wear some old clothes since the food coloring can stain.



Sources:

1. Growing hands on Kids - www.growinghandsonkids.com
2. Kids Sense Child Development - www.childdevelopment.com.au