



FACT SHEET

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Supporting the development of fine motor skills for writing.

Early literacy – how young children learn to read and write- is an integral component of young children's development being the foundations of school success in later years. In order for children to master the writing and reading skills they should see reading and writing as both useful and enjoyable activities. This occurs when children are frequently read to, when they see adults reading and writing and when they are encouraged to use tools and props within their own play. Pre-writing skills provides children the opportunity to develop the fine motor muscles needed for writing as well as hand eye co-ordination and the understanding of what writing is about as well as the varying concepts involved in writing.

Suggested strategies

- **Allow children to experiment with writing in an unhindered and organic way.**
- **In order to write children need to have an understanding of concepts such as under, over through, across, below, above, around straight, curved, short, tall. Therefore provide activities that helps with that understanding. Eg. Telling and acting out the story "Going on a Bear Hunt".**
- **It is important to model correct writing.**
- **Provide activities that assists in the development of fine motor within the hands e.g. palmer grip or pincer grip. Activities such as feely buckets, play dough, crayon and paint, dressing up, doing up buttons.**
- **Encourage children to label their own art work even if the letters are incorrect.**
- **Provide a "writing wall" where a ribbon is attached to the wall in both curved and straight pathways and show children to follow the ribbon their two hands joined.**
- **Provide activities where children make shapes in the air using big and small arm strokes**
- **Provide matching games and puzzles where letters can be compared to each other**
- **Point out the familiar letters that are also within the child's name**
- **Provide letter related materials in activity areas such as ABC stamps, sponges in the art area and ABC puzzles, alpha shapes and alphabet cards for table activities.**
- **Liaise with the child's school teacher to compliment what processes she/he is using to assist with the development of writing.**
- **Enhance children's play with rewarding and writing by offering paper and markers for making signs, writing tickets.**
- **Add newspapers and magazines to home corner.**
- **When the adult records the child's dictation e.g writing the child's name on their art work, talk about where you are starting to write, such as why you are beginning a sentence with an uppercase letter and using punctuation marks to end the word.**
- **Talk about the shapes in the letters and words and how they are formed.**

References:

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