

## PRE-PRINTING SKILLS

It is important to provide lots of opportunity for your child to colour and draw. Drawing and colouring will help your child develop and improve their pencil control. Developing the ability to direct a pencil on paper in preprinting activities prepares a child for learning to print.

When working on colouring within the lines, you will see your child progress from using large arm movements across the page to using the small joints of the hand. Drawing will stimulate a child's expression of thoughts on paper, combining different strokes or shapes to represent objects. These are the pre-requisite skills to forming letters to express thoughts in words. Your child will also develop an understanding of the concept of a starting point and ending point. Mastery of the precursor shapes is important in order to have success with printing.

### Pre-Printing Progression:

- Mouthing/sensory play
- Bangs crayon
- Scribbles randomly
- Scribbles in a:
  - vertical direction
  - horizontal direction
  - circular direction
- Traces
- Imitates lines and shapes in the following order:
  - Vertical line
  - Horizontal line
  - circle
  - cross (+)
  - right to left diagonal (/)
  - square
  - left to right diagonal (\)
  - X
  - triangle

- diamond
- Copies

## Teaching Techniques

When teaching your child to draw a shape or print a letter the following order is recommended:

tracing → imitation → copying

### 1. Tracing:

Once your child demonstrates ability to make a letter by imitation he/she is ready to attempt tracing. When tracing, he/she makes the strokes directly over the model.

### 2. Imitation:

By watching you, your child learns how the shape is formed, learns how to break it down into its separate parts, and notices the starting point and stopping point. It may also be helpful to describe what you are doing.

### 3. Copying:

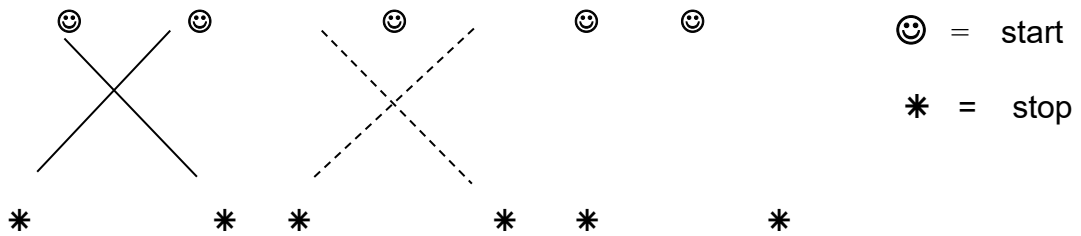
In copying, the model is there for him to see, but he/she must remember how to make it, by breaking down the letter into its parts and putting them together. Please note that it is more difficult for a child to copy from the blackboard than from a sample directly beside him.

## Suggested Activities

When practising pre-printing skills, use a variety of sensory materials before introduction of pencil/paper. For example:

- Sand
- Pudding
- Rice
- Shaving or whipped cream
- Paint (finger or with a brush)
- Chalkboard/Dry Erase
- iPad apps (Writing Wizard (J'écrit en script'), Finger Paint, Letters and Numbers for me, )
- Play dough
- Scented markers
- Gel or paint crayons
- Spray bottle with food colouring and water in snow

- Magnetic boards/Doodle Board
- Aqua Doodle
- Boogie Board (LCD)
- Provide some guidance when needed. Move from a solid line, to a dotted line, to start/stop points when practicing.



- Drawing a line to connect two matching images on either side of the page (encouraging diagonals).
- Worksheets that encourage circling the correct answer.
- To work on pencil control, complete simple dot-to-dot or maze activities.

Note: Please ask for the 'Pencil Grasp' and/or 'Posture' handouts for more information related to pre-printing.

