



Printing and writing skills: a multi-sensory approach

Since your child is just learning how to print and/or write, the formation of letters is not yet automatic. Here are some fun activities which will help your child to learn letters and numbers. (Refer to handout Letter Formation Lesson Plan 1.0 for proper letter formation.)

- Write letters in sand, putty, rice or play dough.
- Write letters in finger paint, lotion or shaving cream.
- Write letters on different types of surface textures, such as carpet, fabric or sandpaper.
- Write letters on a chalkboard, trace over letter with a wet sponge.
- Draw letters in the air with the whole arm, first with eyes open, and then closed.
- Draw letters in the air with elbow on the table (requires more wrist rotation).
- Mystery printing: hand over hand; guide your child's hand to print a letter with his eyes closed. Ask your child to guess which letter was formed. Or print the letter on your child's back with your finger.
- Rainbow letters: trace letter with different colours.
- Use Crayola colour changer markers.
- Print letters on chalkboard, Dry-Erase board, Magnadoodle.
- Glue letters made of different textures (e.g. string, yarn, Wikki Stix, clay, pipe cleaners, glue) to cardboard. Have your child trace the form of the letter with his finger. Do this with eyes closed, and guess which letter is being traced.
- As a reminder, place a strip of paper with the alphabet on it (a letter line) at the top of your child's desk or work surface.
- Encourage children to evaluate their own work: "Which word is written best?", "Which word is wrong?" and "Why?"
- On paper, your child can print a word 10 times and then circle the most accurate and discuss his selection.

