

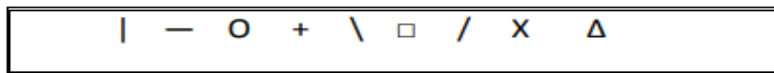
Pre-printing skills

When we talk about pre-printing skills, we are referring to the skills that children need in order to learn how to copy and print. These skills include:

- Able to tell if shapes are the same or different.
- Have good stability and strength in their shoulders, arm and hand.
- Able to imitate, trace, and independently copy lines and shapes. These shapes and lines make up letters and numbers.
- Able to recognize letters and numbers when shown out of order

Please keep in mind the following when practicing pre-printing skills:

1. Practice drawing shapes and strokes in the below progression



2. Follow the progression of imitation (adult demonstrates, child copies), tracing, and then copying independently.

3. Use verbal cues when talking about shapes and how to make them. For example:

	Up to the sky / down to the ground
—	Fly across like an airplane
○	Around a face / clock
\ /	Down the slide

4. Fun ways to draw:

- *Touch:* finger paint, sand, snow, tracing shapes on sandpaper or fabric
- *Smell:* scented markers, make shapes out of scented playdough
- *Sight:* use more than one colour to make a rainbow, use sparkly glue or crayons
- *Hearing:* make sound effects as you draw a line, colour to music
- *Movement:* use chalk on blackboards or sidewalks, draw shapes in the air, drive cars on roads of various shapes.

5. Practice without the marker and paper

- Find different shapes in the room (e.g., the clock is a circle, the car has square windows).
- Trace figures and shapes in the air and/or different textured surface e.g. sandpaper, gel pad, carpet, shaving cream spread on cookie sheet, etc.
- Make lines and shapes with playdough, wikkistix (wax sticks), pipe cleaner, etc.
- Trace or draw shapes and lines on mirrors, windows, or paper taped on the wall.
- Have children complete the shape by draw the last lines or completing the other half of the circle

Other resources:

- <https://sites.google.com/view/schoolbasedot/fine-motor/pre-printing?authuser=0>
- [TheOTClassroom - Hand Dominance \(google.com\)](#)