

PRE - PRINTING SKILLS

The skills involved in learning to print are called pre-printing skills. Pre-printing skills include the sensory and motor skills that support pencil grasp, the ability to form letters and draw

As young children begin to explore with crayons and markers, different patterns of pencil grasps develop. It is important that your child uses a consistent and efficient pencil grasp (fingers easily control the crayon) before introducing printing as a skill.

As children grow and develop their ability to draw and form shapes becomes progressively more complex. Typically printing skills occur in the following order:.

- vertical lines
- horizontal lines
- circles
- crosses (combination of 2 lines)
- diagonal lines (down to left)
- squares
- diagonal lines (down to right)
- X's
- Triangles

HELPFUL PRE-PRINTING ACTIVITIES

Learning about shapes

- Identify objects that have a particular shape e.g. a ball is a circle. Try this with "I spy....."
- Cut out pictures of objects that are a certain shape from a magazine.
- Make Shapes - trace over shapes with your finger
- Trace shapes with a pencil
- stencil geometric shapes and colour them in

PRE-PRINTING SKILLS (Continued):

- connect dots to form a shape
- Shape Activities - use blocks to make buildings
- felt shapes
- shape bingo

Once your child has a good knowledge of basic shapes, he/she can move on to letter formation

Letter Formation.

- Use basic shapes to construct numbers or letters, e.g. a circle plus a stick will make the
 - letters p, d, b.....
- Make sandpaper letters to feel how a letter looks.
- Letter Formation:
- trace over the letter
- follow broken lines to form a letter
- connect dots to form a letter
- copy the letter.
- Match and sort letters.

Make sure that the activities you choose to engage your child in are fun and rewarding – your child will learn more if they enjoy what they are doing!

Occupational Therapist