Parent Resources

Stages of Writing

It is imperative that we assist your children through their development with the most appropriate activities that will foster their growth.

Childs Name Books

* For children to write they must first build up the tiny muscles in their hands and fingers. There are many ways we can assist children with this process: **Daily Activities**
	+ - Dressing themselves
		- Putting on their own shoes
		- Feeding themselves
		- Assisting with Household chores, making beds, folding laundry, setting the table, etc..

**Fun Activities**

* Playdough
* Tearing and Cutting Paper
* Stringing Beads
* Painting with a fat brush
* Coloring with Fat crayons
* Outside sidewalk chalk
* Fat pencil

These daily activities will build your child’s fine motor skills and assist them with the writing process.

We want bigger supplies to assist children with being able to grip these items. Smaller items are more difficult to grasp. Eventually we want children to develop a pincer grasp.

**Stages of pincer grasp development**

Pincer grasp development is usually the result of building on several grasping and coordination milestones. Some of the early developmental milestones that later allow a child to perform the pincer grasp include:

* **palmar grasp:**bringing the fingers in toward the palm, allowing babies to curl their fingers around an object
* **raking grasp**: using the fingers other than the thumb like a rake, curling the top of the fingers over the object to bring items toward them
* **inferior pincer grasp:**using the pads of the thumb and index finger to pick up and hold objects; this precursor to the pincer grasp usually takes place between 7 and 8 months of age

A true pincer grasp is when a child uses the tips of their fingers to pick up objects. This is also called a superior or “neat” pincer grasp.

Children are able to pick up smaller, thinner objects when they can accomplish a pincer grasp. Allowing a child to grasp items, make contact with their hands, and engage with items is a step toward the pincer grasp.

It is imperative that children begin with larger spaces to draw or paint on- with limited restrictions, such as lines etc…

Remember we want children to enjoy writing, later in their education this will be the way for them to express their thoughts and ideas.

Children’s first writing samples will be their drawings, most drawings begin with circles, wiggle lines, shapes, etc.. (Please take a look at the writing stages chart we have included for you.)

 Encourage your child to draw and paint as often as possible for this will build their fine motor skills providing them the strength to write later.

Encourage them to sign their name to all piece of work. Helpful sayings are “All Artist must sign their work”

At this time we don’t encourage tracing of letters.

Children at this age are just beginning to develop spatial understanding. So their drawings and letter formation will be crocked, large, small, etc… This is all part of the developmental process.

Typically, Upper case letters are easier to write then Lower-case letters.

Have conversation with your child about the letters that are in his/her name.

Example :

* How many letters make up your name?
* Are their similar letters in your name?
* Why does your name begin with an Upper-Case Letter and then followed by lower Case Letters?
* How many vowels are in your name?
* Talk about forming the letters, recognizing lines and shapes

Remember the goal is to build the muscles in their hands allowing them to properly hold a pencil.

Most importantly we want your child to develop a love for writing.

Please remember that we had to crawl before we could walk and walk before we could run.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call 718-584-1576