Drawing & Writing

Drawing and writing are complex skills which rely on your child developing skills in many different areas. Providing your child the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of drawing and writing activities will encourage their pencil skills. Most importantly, these activities should be FUN and enjoyable to your child!

- **Practice drawing/writing with a variety of:**
  - Different mediums e.g. chalk, paint, crayons, textas, magna doodle, sticks and stones, wet paintbrush on concrete, wet sand, rice, shaving cream, bath crayons etc.
  - Different surfaces: e.g. cardboard, boxes, concrete, paper etc.

- **Practice tracing, copying and drawing:**
  - Vertical and horizontal lines e.g. drawing candles, grass, a fence, a ladder, railway tracks, rain etc.
  - Circles e.g. wheels, oranges, apples, glasses, balloons, caterpillar etc.
  - Cross’ ( + ) e.g. windows, stick figures etc.
  - Diagonal lines e.g. mountains, slides, X’s etc.
  - Shapes e.g. squares, rectangles, triangles, diamonds etc.
  - Patterns e.g. zig zag, wavy, spiky etc.
  - People and other objects of interest to your child.
  - Your child’s name. It may be easiest to begin writing by drawing within an outline, tracing, then joining dot to dots, imitating, copying and then writing independently.

- Draw on vertical surfaces e.g. easels, blackboards, whiteboards, house windows using window markers etc. This will help develop hand and finger strength, shoulder stability and promote a good wrist position for when your child is drawing and/or writing.
- Draw shapes/letters in the air e.g. with finger, scarfs, ribbons etc.
- Stick shapes/letters to the wall or ceiling and encourage your child to trace around them with a torch
- Trace around stencils or colour in stencils using pencils, sponges dipped in paint, paintbrushes, textas etc. Your child’s non-dominant hand should hold the stencil flat and stable against the paper while the dominant hand holds the pencil.
- Dot to dots: Draw dots for your child to join together e.g. dots of your child’s name. Dot to dot activity books can also be purchased from most $2 shops. You could also try using stickers, stamps or holes punched in the paper as dots.
- Mazes: Encourage your child to start left to right, top to bottom, this is not compulsory however, the most important focus is that your child enjoys the activity.
- Make letters with Play Dough, Plasticine, Wikki Sticks, pipe cleaners, toothpicks etc. If this is difficult for your child draw a large letter on paper and get them to place the play dough over the top of this.
- Play with magnetic letters.
- Make your own story book and write/draw a story.
- Colouring in. Start with small and simple pictures with thick lines using thick tipped texta’s/crayons. Choose pictures that interest your child e.g. Ben 10, Thomas the Tank Engine etc.
- It may be helpful to purchase an early writing book from local bookshops or newsagencies if your child is interested in paper/pencil activities. Alternatively, the internet also has a great range of early writing activities for free!
- Write shopping lists together (if your child can’t write they could draw the items) or play “post office” and draw/write letters and post them.
- Draw large shapes/letters on paper and get your child to trace over the shape with a glue stick. You child can then decorate the letter e.g. with scrunched up paper, glitter etc.
- Have your child trace around their own hand or people lying on the ground with chalk or textas.
- It may be helpful to describe (using simple language) what you are doing when you are drawing e.g. when drawing vertical lines you could say “down, down, down”. Encourage your child to do the same.
- Practice drawing things that your child likes and is interested in, don’t worry too much if it looks nothing like what they were attempting to draw!
- Encourage your child to tell you what they have drawn and describe what is happening in their picture.

References