

Baby TALK Preschool Activity

LANGUAGE ARTS - LITERACY

Writing to Represent Language

- Preparation
- Assessment
- Affiliation
- Observation
- Developmental Behaviors
- System of Support
- Baby Talk System of Care
- Reflection – On – Action
- Documentation

Purpose

Writing opportunities allow your child to begin applying what she learns about print in her daily life. Beginning writing will look like random scribbles and develop over time into purposeful lines. As she develops she will begin to make shapes that are pretend letters, and those eventually emerge into actual letters. Each stage of writing is important and should be celebrated! Encourage your child to experiment with paper and writing tools and watch her ability develop over time.

Materials

- Paper
- Drawing tools (e.g., crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.)

Let's wonder together

What types of writing tools does your child enjoy using?
 Why are those preferred?
 What will your child do if you ask her to write her name?
 What type of writing has your child seen in your home?

Activity

Provide the child with a piece of paper and various drawing tools.

Ask your child to draw a picture.

As your child is working, ask her to identify parts of her picture. Encourage your child through questions such as "Can you think of anything else to draw?" "What kind of details could you add?" and "Why did you choose this color?"

As she finishes her drawing, ask her to tell you something important about her picture. Repeat what your child says and ask her to write "her words." If she is resistant to attempt writing, ask her if you can write the words for her. If the child agrees, write the word or words exactly as your child says. Read back the words while following along with your finger.

Acknowledge all attempts at writing. Whether your child is using random scribbles or letter-like forms to create her words, encouragement creates a desire within your child to continue practicing her developing skills.



**Demonstrate
growing interest
and abilities in
writing**

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EXTENSION FOR OLDER PRESCHOOLER:

As your child develops she may want to copy the words you write. You may write the words she says on a different paper and she can copy them directly onto her own paper.

Encourage her to listen for sounds in the words she wish to write and write down the sounds heard.

What do you think about this?

- Which materials did your child prefer using?
- In what other ways might you encourage your child to write?
- How can you encourage your child to write during pretend play?
- How might seeing you write encourage your child to also write?

Application for Social Emotional Development

Throughout this activity, there is a consistent flow of communication taking place between you and your child. Communication is often recognized as a language skill. However, the back-and-forth exchange of language is also a social experience. In this activity your child is provided with many opportunities to express her own thoughts and preferences while you listen attentively without judgement. You support your child through encouragement and describing what you see her doing. You have created a safe place for your child to express herself. This will lead to the development of her identity as an individual who is able to make her own decisions.

ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARD(S):

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Primary | (5.A) Demonstrate growing interest and abilities in writing. |
| Secondary | (30.B) Recognize own uniqueness and personal qualities. |
| | (31.B) Use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others. |