



Write!

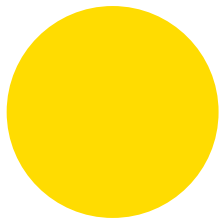
Writing begins with recognizing letters. For younger children this starts with recognizing shapes because circles and triangles are often parts of letters. Being able to see shapes will help children to recognize letters.



What Shape is This?



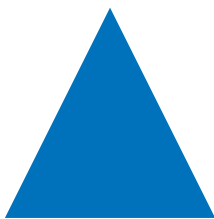
Ask children to identify general shapes or letter shapes that they see around them – on street signs, while shopping or around your home.



CIRCLE



SQUARE



TRIANGLE



RECTANGLE



Write!

Writing is an important early literacy skill. For young children writing looks like playing! Practicing fine motor skills, such as making small finger motions while singing a song, helps develop these skills and leads to writing later on.



Open Them, Shut Them!



Have your child use his hands and fingers to follow the directions in the song.

*Open them, shut them, open them, shut them,
Give a little clap.*

*Open them, shut them, open them, shut them,
Put them in your lap.*

*Creep them, creep them, creep them, creep them
Right up to your chin.*

Open up your little mouth...

But do not let them in!





Write!

Like everything, writing takes practice. Giving your children paper and crayons, markers, or pencils even when they can only scribble is the beginning of early writing.



Scribble and Write



Provide opportunities for toddlers to use crayons or markers. Scribbles are practice! Older children can trace the letters of their names or other simple words.

Aa

Bb

Cc

Dd

Ee

Ff



Write!

Writing doesn't have to be done with paper and pencil. Depending on where you are, writing can take place in sand, in the air, or on someone's back.



Finger "Painting"



Use your finger to trace letters in a sandbox.

Now trace them in the air.

Now trace them on someone's back.





Write!

Watching grown-ups write helps children understand the importance of writing as a skill useful in everyday life.



Grocery List



When you make a grocery list, let your child make her own list or draw pictures of what is on yours. Let your child be in charge of crossing the items off the list as you find them at the store.

