





Top Tips for Developing Pre Writing Skills

Developmentally your child should be able to draw vertical (top to bottom) and horizontal (left to right) lines first. They should then progress to drawing circles, crosses and diagonal lines, finally squares and triangles.

These activities are designed as Pre-writing activities. Before carrying out any of the activity suggestions below, always prepare your child by discussing the strategies beforehand and let them take the lead as much as possible. Choose the ones that you feel are most appropriate for your child. The lists of activities are not prescriptive and you can vary them. Use a little and often approach to ensure your child has fun with these activities.

Activities	
  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For hand skills encourage sitting at a table or sitting on the floor so that you do not have to balance at the same time. • Have fun drawing dots, lines and shapes in shaving foam spread on a mirror or bathroom tiles with your finger. • Finger painting – you could even finger paint using food. • Make shapes on a tray of sand; can you make dots, lines, circles and squares? Can you draw a smiley face? Adult should demonstrate and encourage child to imitate. • Try and draw on different types of paper e.g. a paper bag, corrugated card, greaseproof paper, foil, sandpaper. • Try racetrack drawing. Ask an adult to help you make a racetrack in sand or on paper (two lines 5cm apart). Use a toy car or your finger to race along the track. Change the track to make it narrower and add zigzags, bridges and junctions. • Play “Simon Says” to draw shapes or letters in the air e.g. “Simon says draw a circle” • Can you make shapes out of string or a pipe cleaner? • Copy the air shape – draw a shape in the air using your finger or a stick with a piece of ribbon attached and ask child to copy. Use hand over hand guidance at first. Make a large movement, use whole arm.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using your finger, draw a shape on an adults back and see if they can guess what it is. Ask them to copy it on your back.
Activities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray shaving foam or smear paint on a table. Place both child's hands in it and move them in time to the actions of the wheels on the bus e.g. round and round, up and down, side to side etc. Hand over hand guidance may be necessary at first. Try drawing with chalk on outdoor paving slabs and watch it wash away when it rains