

Getting Ready for School

Writing With Your Child Everyday

Writing is one of the most complex skills children will develop! Learning to write requires children developing knowledge about print, the alphabet, and how sounds are represented by letters. It also requires fine motor skills to hold a pencil and to control how it moves . e

Activities to do with your preschooler:

™ Use a Salt Tray to Teach Your Child to Write His or Her Name: Sensory Salt Tray

Use a cookie sheet or the lid from a shoe box to make a salt tray for your child to practice "writing" his or her name or other words, or for just swishing the salt around.

Here's what you do:

- f* Use a cookie sheet or the lid from a shoe box as a tray.
- f* Write your child's name in marker or crayon on a sheet of unlined paper that will cover the bottom of the tray. Use all capital letters first and then go on to using upper- and lowercase letters. Place the paper on the bottom of the tray.
- f* Pour a layer of salt and shake gently so the salt covers the bottom of the tray. You child can still see the letters on the paper underneath the salt use as a guide. Your child then uses his or her finger to trace the letters and write his or her name. If your child makes a mistake, a gentle shake lets him or her start again.
- f* Sand and corn meal can be substituted for salt. They work well too.

™ As Your Child Dictates a Story You Write and Your Child Illustrates: Am An Author

Your child can be an author and illustrator with your help. While being an author, your child is learning about print, words, letters. Children have lots of stories to share, especially if you read books to your child regularly.

- f* Fold 35 unlined 8 ½ X 11 sheets of paper together to make a booklet. Staple on the fold.
- f* Ask your child to tell a story for you to write down. Some children prefer drawing the story and telling you what words to write, and others like to illustrate the story after all the writing is done.