

Learning to write



Getting ready to write

- ▶ Before a child is ready to hold a pencil and form letters correctly, they need to have developed fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination
- ▶ Activities that encourage this include:
 - threading
 - pegboards and pegs
 - building towers
 - tweezers
 - playdough
 - nuts and bolts

Holding a pencil properly

- ▶ The correct way of holding a pencil properly is using a tripod grip
- ▶ Holding the pen or pencil correctly allows the fingers and wrist to move freely, without putting strain on the hand, helping to improve handwriting and making it more comfortable.

Pinch and flip

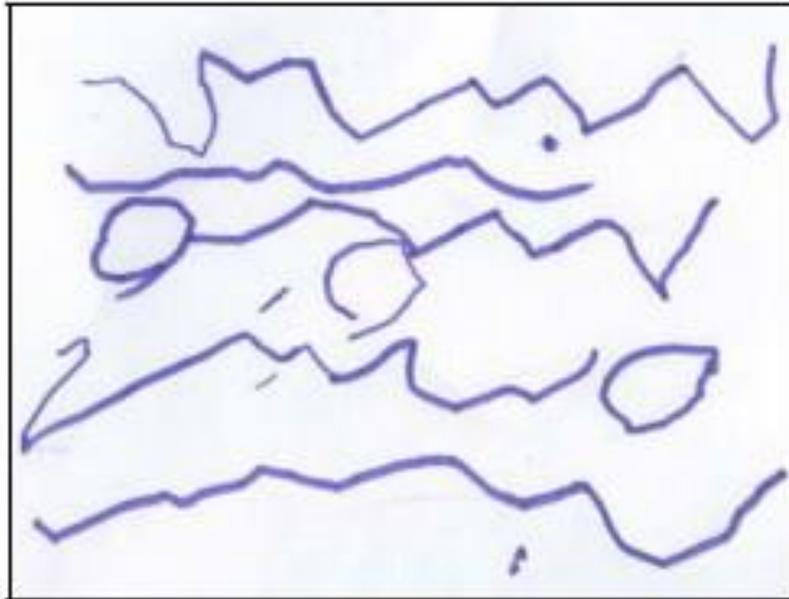
- ▶ The easiest way to teach your child to hold their pencil properly is to use a method called pinch and flip
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ2LP3cOHmQ>

Ready to write

- ▶ The first thing a child needs to be able to do is to distinguish between pictures and writing
- ▶ They then need to understand that writing means something

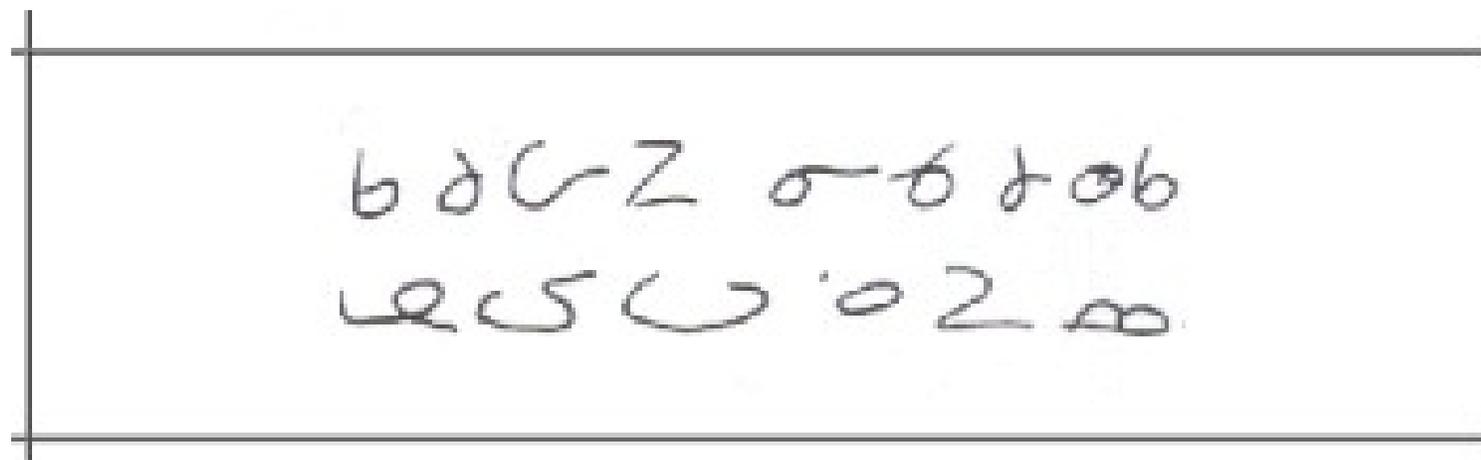
Early Writing

- ▶ Children begin their journey towards writing by making marks, not by producing letters and words.



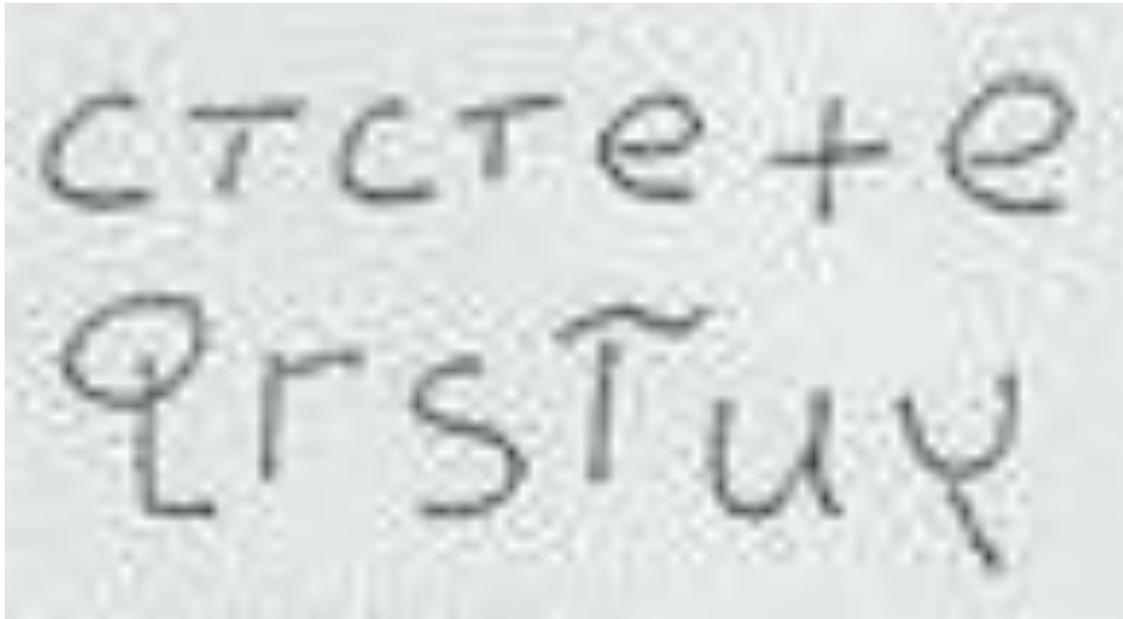
They then begin to write letter like shapes

- ▶ Shapes resemble letters but are not actual letters

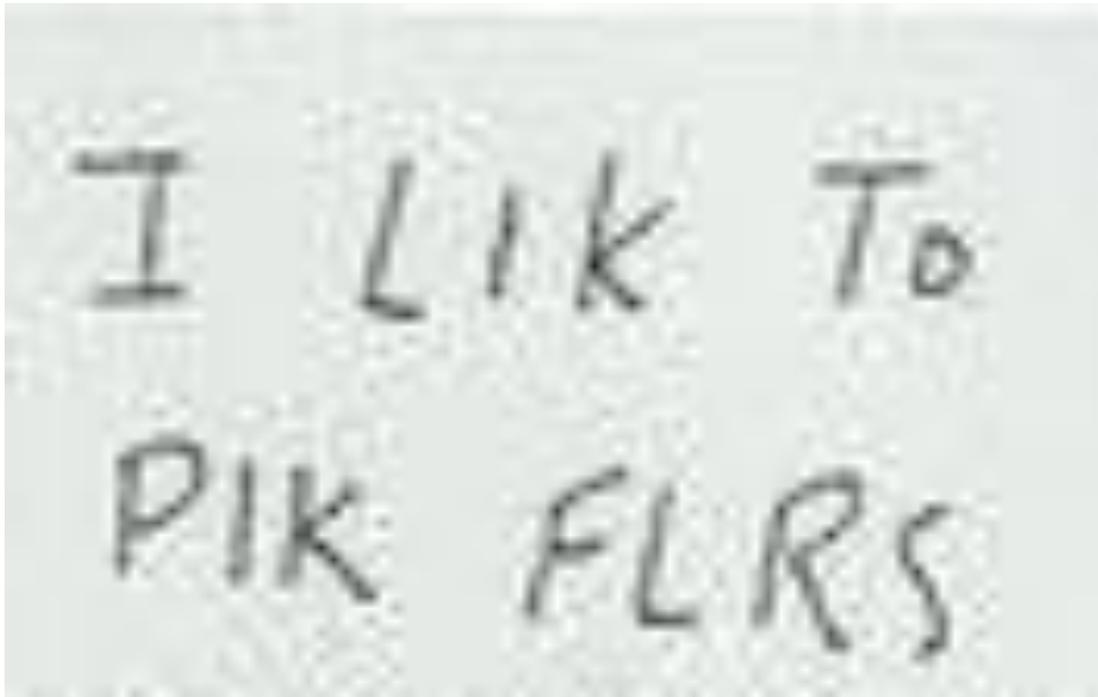


Letter strings

- ▶ They begin to write identifiable letters
- ▶ Letters are random



Writes sounds they hear in words



Assessing Early Writing

22-36m

- ▶ Distinguishes between the different marks they make.

30-50m

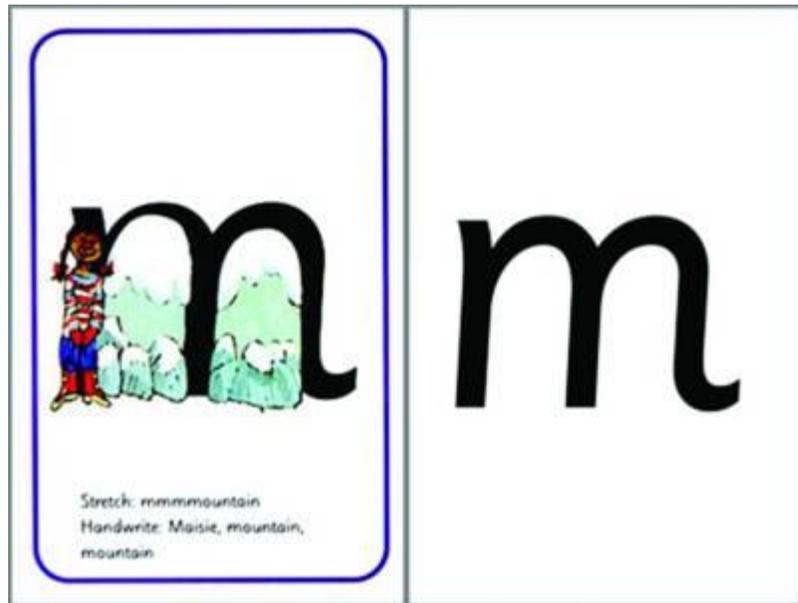
- ▶ Sometimes gives meaning to marks as they draw and paint.
- ▶ Ascribes meanings to marks that they see in different places.

40-60m

- ▶ Gives meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint.
- ▶ Begins to break the flow of speech into words.
- ▶ Continues a rhyming string.
- ▶ Hears and says the initial sound in words.
- ▶ Can segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together.
- ▶ Links sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet.
- ▶ Uses some clearly identifiable letters to communicate meaning, representing some sounds correctly and in sequence.
- ▶ Writes own name and other things such as labels, captions.
- ▶ Attempts to write short sentences in meaningful contexts.

Letter formation

- ▶ Learn how to form letters correctly when learning sounds

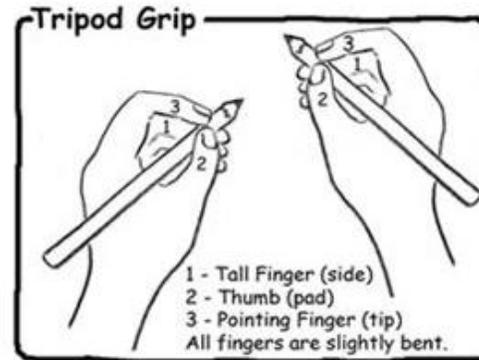


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Letter families

Tripod pencil grip



Letter families

- Long ladders l, i, t, u, j, y
- One armed robots r, n, m, h, b, k, p
- Curly caterpillars c, a, d, o, s, g, q, e, f
- Zig zag monsters z, v, w, x