

PRE-WRITING LINES

EDUCATIONAL HANDOUT

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Pre-writing skills, such as coloring, drawing, and writing, are crucial building blocks for handwriting. Before a child learns to write the alphabet, it's essential that they master these skills, which consist of different types of writing strokes.

The letters of the alphabet, both uppercase and lowercase, are made up of distinct elements, including lines, curves, and circles. It's crucial for a child to understand these fundamental components for effective alphabet writing.

Check out the visual below, which provides a general guide to when a child develops each of the writing strokes.

Pre-Writing Skills Expectations

1-2 years: Spontaneous	Scribble	
1-2 years: Imitate 3 years: Copies	Vertical Line	
2.5 years: Imitate 3 years: Copies	Horizontal Line	
2.5 years: Imitate 3 years: Copies	Circle Shape	
3.5 years: Imitate 4 years: Copies	Cross Shape	
4 years: Imitate 5 years: Copies	Square Shape	
4.5 years: Imitate 5 years: Copies	Right and Left Diagonal Lines	
5 years: Imitate 5.5-6 years: Copies	Triangle Shape	
5 years: Imitate 5.5-6 years: Copies	X Shape	

References

- Beery, K.E., Buktenica, N. A., & Beery, N.A. (2010). *The beery-buktenica developmental test of visual motor integration* (6th ed.). Pearson.
- Folio, R.M., & Fewell, R.R. (2000). *Peabody developmental motor scales* (2nd ed). Austin: Pro-Ed.