## Early Developmental Writing Stages

and Suggested Materials

RANDOM SCRIBBLING	CONTROLLED SCRIBBLING	MOCK LETTERS AND LETTERS IN NAME	LETTER STRINGS	FIRST-LETTER SOUNDS
(15 months-2 years)  Just starting to hold crayons with fist and making marks on paper  Uses just one color  Straight lines in scribble fashion	(2-3 years old)  Better control of crayons and markers  Uses variety of colors and lines  Starts to draw circles	(3-4 years old)  • Makes letter-like forms: sticks, round shapes, dots  • Tries to write some letters in their name  • May tell story about their writing if asked	<ul> <li>(4-5 years old)</li> <li>Writes letters side by side or all over paper</li> <li>May try to "read" their writing</li> <li>Letters don't match the sounds</li> <li>Writes first name</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(4-6 years old)</li> <li>Spells some high-frequency words right (<i>I</i>, love, a)</li> <li>Uses letters to represent first (then last, and finally medial) sounds in words</li> <li>Writes first and last name</li> </ul>
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<ul> <li>Thick short crayons and markers</li> <li>Large blank white unlined paper</li> <li>Bathtub markers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Crayons, markers, pencils, chalk, shaving cream, paints or water and brushes, dry erase supplies</li> <li>Large blank unlined paper (white or dark)</li> <li>Paintbrushes and water or paints</li> <li>Standing and using vertical surfaces (e.g., easel) or sitting and using horizontal surfaces (e.g., table)</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Pencils, markers, crayons, pens</li> <li>Alphabet strip or name to trace</li> <li>Blank white unlined paper</li> <li>Pencil grips</li> <li>Vertical or horizontal surfaces</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pencils, markers, pens, dry erase, stamps and pad</li> <li>Blank white unlined paper</li> <li>Special paper with drawing box and one to two lines (see printables online)</li> </ul>

Note: A special thank you to the author's grandchildren for appearing in these photos.

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