

Pre-writing



Pre-writing is the stage before a child learns to write. During pre-writing a child will develop their pencil grasp, control and ability to draw the shapes that make up complex letter and

✎ Use small, chunky pencils or chalk; the width makes them easier for your child to hold.

✎ Pencils with a grip can provide a visual reminder for where your child needs to place their fingers. If you do not have these you can place a marker on the pencil.

✎ There are some specialist pencil grips that can be used to encourage a tripod grip, such as triangular pencils or Twist 'N' Write pen.

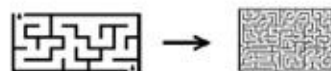
✎ Allow your child to engage in freehand drawing as this is good for the development of pencil control.

✎ Straight lines are the easier shapes to draw and you should start with these, followed by large curved lines, tighter curved lines and eventually zig-zags.

✎ Have your child draw between 2 lines, starting wide apart and with straight lines, then reduce the width and

✎ Change to curved, wiggly or zigzag lines as your child's pencil control increases.

✎ Mazes are a fun way to increase your child's pencil control. Start with mazes that are easy and have wider spaces, then progress to thinner spaces and more difficult mazes:



✎ Pre-writing activities do not need to be paper and pencil based sitting at a desk. Any activities using hands, such as painting and writing in sand or shaving are good.



✎ Low motivation can be a result of poor pencil control. Try to make the activities motivating and fun!

✎ Remember to keep the task hard enough for your child so that it is challenging, but not too hard making where it becomes impossible to be successful!