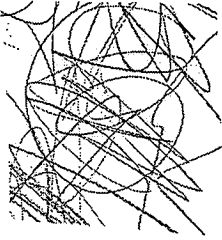
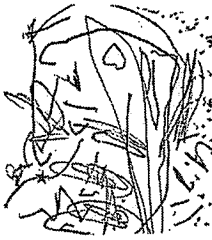
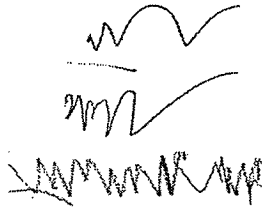
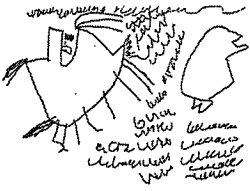
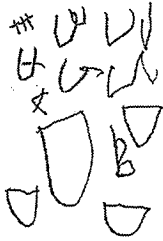

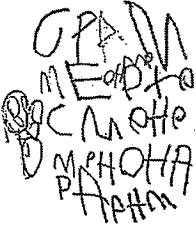
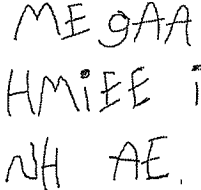
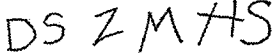
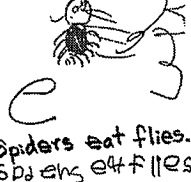



Learning to Write

Learning to write involves much more than forming letters of the alphabet. It includes understanding such ideas as why people write and how they organize words on a page. Your child will go through stages of development while learning to write just as she did learning to talk. Watch for your child to develop the following skills.

<p>1</p>  <p>Draws scribbles over and over to understand how to make certain marks.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Scribbles separate as child moves pencil to many starting points.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Writing moves across page left to right.</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Shows he understands the difference between pictures and print.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Makes letter-like forms and some real letters from his name.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Uses space creatively, even backwards, when writing.</p>
<p>7</p>  <p>Writes a sequence of letters to represent an idea or story.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Shows he knows words are made up of letters.</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Writes down the letters that represent the most obvious sounds. (This is my house.)</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>Shows interest in writing "real" words by copying adult writing and signs.</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Uses all his resources to produce conventional writing.</p>	



Supporting your child's developing writing skills

From a very young age, your child learns about writing from you. When you write on a calendar, you show your child that words and thoughts can be written down. Your child will need many opportunities to experiment with writing. Here are some ways you can help:

- Involve your child in writing experiences that mean something to her. She might help you write a grocery list or thank you note. Writing random letters over and over before her muscles are ready may be frustrating and cause her to lose interest.
- Introduce the names of letters and their sounds by pointing them out in books, restaurant signs, or in your home. Play sound games like singing "Binkle, binkle, little star". Offer letter puzzles, magnet letters, or letters cut from cloth and sandpaper. Your child needs to use all her senses to learn about these symbols.
- Share many kinds of books, magazines, and other reading materials with your child.
- Fill a box with crayons, pencils, scrap paper, tape, stamps, and other items that encourage writing. You will need to set limits on how to use these items safely.
- Model writing for your child. Tell her why you write on the calendar or in a checkbook. Offer materials such as old checkbooks and calendars for her to pretend to write just like you.

Parents,

This information is provided to you today on behalf of a special visiting program your care provider is taking part in. If you would like to receive similar visits and learn more about how your child grows and develops, please contact your local Parents as Teachers program or call 1-866-PAT4YOU to find a program in your area, or visit our website at www.patnc.org