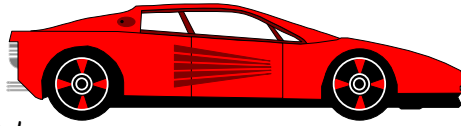


Sloan and Kemp Consultants Parent Brochure

Start with an interest area - for example if cars or trains are motivating, you could draw some roads or tracks on the page to drive the texta along.



Obstacles such as playdoh 'rocks' or potholes (made with a hole puncher) can be added for interest. Take a "drive" with the texta, avoiding the obstacles by going slowly.

Make crayon rubbings - use commercially available templates or interesting items from the garden. Place paper on top and rub with a crayon to see what pattern it makes.

Dot-to-dot - make your own fun dot-to-dots using stickers or stamps. Once two stickers have been joined by a line, get your child to add another sticker to the page and join that. See what patterns and shapes you can make.

GETTING READY

FOR WRITING

3-5 year olds



If you are concerned about the development of your child's drawing and writing, please contact the occupational therapist at your local hospital or community health centre

Sloan and Kemp Consultants is an organisation of health professionals and educators who provide expert training and consultancy in the field of child development and education.

For further information regarding our quality training for Early Education Professionals and parent groups, please telephone (02) 9528 0907

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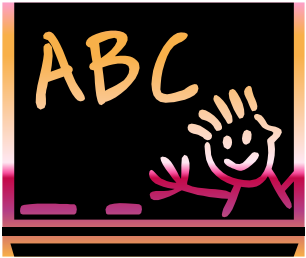
Learning to draw and write is an important skill in getting ready for school. Children need plenty of opportunities for fun, safe practice without an expectation that they will get it right straight away.

Following are just a few examples of the types of activities that may be helpful. Remember to keep it fun and playful.

Resources to encourage drawing and writing

Have a variety of different resources available for children to try. Some will suit them better than others. For example, crayons last a long time but require more pressure to make them work on the paper. Thick, bright textas are easier to make a mark with but can be messy on the furniture!

Suitable materials include paints and brushes, crayons, textas, pencils, chalk as well as paper, easels, blackboards and whiteboards.



Commercially available products such as magna doodles can be very motivating but don't forget about other simple ideas such as drawing in the sand or on the fogged-up shower screen.

Another interested child or adult can be great - use these opportunities to model simple drawing and writing, to talk about how to do things and to give hands-on help as appropriate.

In order to learn to write, it is important for children to understand that writing has a function. Let them see you write simple things such as shopping lists and addresses. Provide lined paper and envelopes so that they can 'pretend' to write in play.

"Getting the grip" - some suggestions

Keep plenty of thick textas, pencils and crayons available. These are easier to hold on to and can allow the hand to feel a bit more stable.

Fine motor games will continue to promote the strength and manipulative skills that are needed to hold a pencil. Begin to look for games that require more precision and use of the fingers.



Good quality thick textas tend to slide across the page more readily and are often easier to manipulate. These may be easier for some children to use than pencils or crayons, which usually require more downward force. Drawing and writing on a whiteboard may also be easier.

Use upright surfaces some of the time eg. easels, blackboards, whiteboards, slopeboards, fridge door. By working in this position, children can begin to position their arms and wrists in a way that may help to promote a good pencil grip.



Games that can be played on upright surfaces include mounted peg or duplo boards, playing with magnets, fuzzy felt or similar boards, making pictures on cardboard using stickers or stamps, as well as drawing and painting and stamping

Games for reluctant drawers and writers

Whilst it is important to include activities such as tracing and drawing simple pictures, shapes and letters, it can be helpful to just play games with writing resources. Examples include:

Make use of activity books - especially those that feature well loved characters. These often contain simple tracing and maze activities.

Making scribble on the page and finding pictures in it (for example, outline circles, clouds, animals etc)

Play follow the leader using changeable markers or something similar. Make a coloured line and get your child to "follow" it with another marker and change the colour of your line. Swap leader roles. Changeable markers are also very motivating when introduced for tracing simple shapes or basic early writing patterns.