

Pre-K Parent Writing Tips

- Engage your child in talking, singing, chanting, telling stories and jokes, and reciting poems and nursery rhymes.
- Read, read, and read! Talk about the pictures and stories your child sees and hears. Each time children hear and discuss a storybook, they understand something new about how stories and writing work.
- Make writing materials accessible and support all attempts by your child to write. Little broken pieces of chalk or crayon promote fingertip control and strength and encourage the correct grasp; fat pencils and crayons are too heavy for little hands. Provide vertical surfaces (an easel or paper taped to wall/fridge) to practice writing on; this supports hand skill development.
- Provide your 3 year-old with big sheets of paper and encourage loose scribbling/drawing. Show your child how to hold and move the crayon to make different strokes, back and forth, up and down, round and round.
- When your 4 year-old attempts to make letters, demonstrate how to write letters in her name. Be a good model. Write in block capital letters; they are the first letters that children can visually recognize and remember, and the first letters children can physically write.
- Help your child recognize letters and notice that print is all around us. Point out signs, logos, and letters wherever you go.
- Have your child use his own words or illustrations to describe his experiences, tell imaginative stories, or communicate information about a topic of interest. Write down his words as he watches you.
- Model, model, model! Let your child see you write often, for different purposes. Just as you read aloud to your child write aloud as well.