The Stages of Kindergarten Writing

At the beginning of the year, kindergarten writing consists mainly of **drawing a picture**. Over time the picture should advance to include more details and then attempts at writing as we know it. All of these stages are normal. Comment about your child's writing and encourage it. Children move through the stages at their own pace.

Example of writing stages:

Scribbles: ~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~~~~~

Random letters: kjdijinewjbkjdf

Letters of sounds they know: beginning sounds, then ending sounds and then vowel sounds.

Ex. I c mi frnd. (I see my friend.)

It is totally fine to spell a word for your child. It is totally fine to give the sounds in the word for your child to write. It is totally fine for your child to write the sounds they hear.

Reading and being read to help children progress in writing. They see and hear numerous words which they now "own "and want to use.

Take a piece of paper and draw a line through the middle of the page. Have your child **draw a picture** in the box on top. They can **write about the picture** in the bottom box**. Do not worry** right now about writing on the lines. You can remind your child that all letters start at the top and that we write lowercase letters except when a capital is needed. ** I would use a spiral notebook for all the writing practice and I would write the date on the page. You will be amazed at the growth your child experiences.

If your child does not want to draw a picture, they can **cut a picture out of a magazine or newspaper**. Glue the picture to a piece of paper. Next have your child name objects in the picture. You write the word next to the item. **Label about 5 to 7 items**. Now ask your child to tell you what is happening in the picture. **You write down what they said to you**. As you write, you can describe what you are doing and say the letter name/sound as you write. " I start the sentences with a capital letter. I put spaces between the words. I put a period at the end of the sentence." Now read the sentence to your child, point to eat word as you say it. Next have your child read the sentence and **point to each word** as they say it. Save the picture in a safe place and come back to read it again. Your child will be able to "read" it. I always remind the children—If you can say it, you can write it. If you can write it, you can read it.

I have taught lessons doing a **directed drawing**. That is where you draw a part of the picture and the student copies you step by step until the picture is complete. I have a cute book I use but I have heard of directed drawing videos online. After the item is drawn, your child can add details to the picture. Then have your child dictate a sentence for you to write. Save these for future reading practice.

Transformations are drawings created by using the simple line, squiggle, shape, letter or object drawn on the piece of paper. The child incorporates the existing mark to make a picture. The child can then fill in the sentence frame: I used to be a circle, now I am _____.