

Georgia's K-12 English Language Arts standards emphasize the importance of developing handwriting skills in early grades to help young students become effective communicators and build strong literacy foundations. To support your child's handwriting development at home, consider engaging in activities such as those outlined below. These resources include practical exercises, informative videos, and additional materials designed to make handwriting practice both enjoyable and effective.

WHY HANDWRITING?

Did You Know...

- Children who practice handwriting show improvement in reading and spelling.
- Research shows a relationship between language development and practicing handwriting.



5 TIPS FOR STRENGTHENING FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Proficient handwriting relies heavily on fine motor skills, which involve precise movements of the hands and fingers. Fine motor skills involve movements using small muscles in hands and wrists.

- Use scissors and tweezers
- Practice finger plays
- Play with Lego, string beads, or sort buttons
- Finger paint
- Create with play dough



PRE-WRITING SHAPES DEVELOPMENT CHART

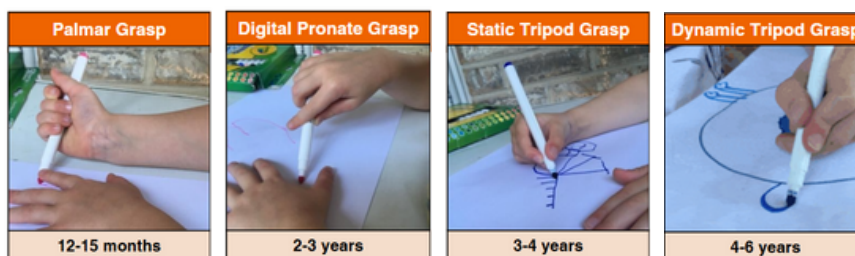
Before children can write letters and numbers, it's important for them to master basic pre-writing strokes like lines, curves, and shapes. These movements are the building blocks of handwriting and help develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness. By focusing on these foundational skills, we can set the stage for successful writing development.

Shape	Shape Name and Description	Age to Master
	Vertical Line - Straight line from top to bottom	3 years
	Horizontal Line - Straight line from left to right	3 years
	Circle - Rounded continuous line	3.5 years
	Cross : Intersecting lines at right angles	4 years

Shape	Shape Name and Description	Age to Master
	Square : Four connected straight lines	4 years
	Right/Left Diagonal Line : Slanted lines to the right/left	4.5 years
	Diagonal Cross : Intersecting diagonal lines	5 years
	Triangle : Three connected lines forming a shape	5 years

PENCIL GRASP DEVELOPMENT

As your child grows, their way of holding a pencil will change. They'll start by gripping it with their whole hand, then use their fingers more as they develop better control. Understanding these stages can help you support their writing skills. The chart below shows how children's pencil grips typically progress as they get older.



PRACTICING HANDWRITING AT HOME

In early handwriting instruction, letters are taught in groups based on how they are formed, rather than in alphabetical order. This approach helps children learn to write more efficiently by focusing on similar movements. To understand the specific order in which letters are taught in your child's classroom, it's best to check with their teacher.

NON-PENCIL HANDWRITING ACTIVITIES

- Draw letters with soap bubbles.
- Finger paint letters.
- Make a guessing game tracing letters on your child's back.
- Make letters with play dough.
- Write letters with chalk on the sidewalk or trace them in snow or sand.
- Write letters in sand.



PENCIL-BASED HANDWRITING ACTIVITIES

- Practice letters that your student has already practiced at school.
- Work on letter formation by stroke.
- Build automaticity – repeat strokes so that students can do it without thinking.
- Positioning is important. When practicing handwriting, remind your child to:
 - Sit with feet flat on the floor.
 - Keep back straight.
 - Keep relaxed shoulders.
 - Right-handed writers should tilt paper 45 degrees to the left.
 - Left-handed writers should tilt paper 45 degrees to the right.
- Keep an eye on your child's pen or pencil grasp.
- Keep handwriting practice separate from homework and focus on making writing fun and positive!

HANDWRITING RESOURCES

Help your child build confidence in handwriting with instructional videos, at-home practice materials, and parent support resources.

- 🔗 [Zaner-Bloser](#)
- 🔗 [National Handwriting Association](#)
- 🔗 [Learning Without Tears](#)
- 🔗 [Reading Universe](#)

