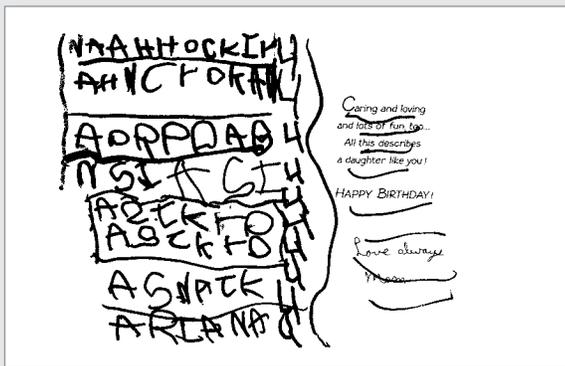


The Developmental Stages of Writing

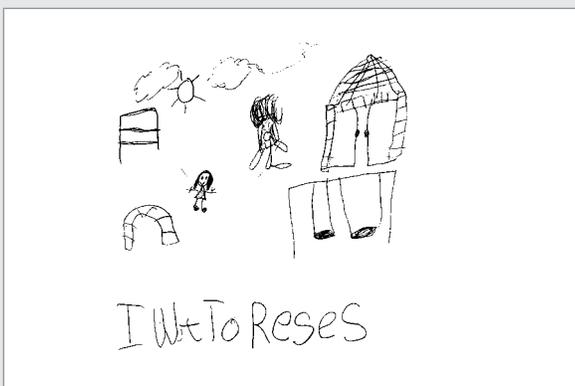
Scribble Stage: A student operating in the scribble stage writes with lines, scribbles, or mock-letter forms. He or she has no specific concept of the use of space on the page.



Isolated Letter Stage: During the isolated letter stage, letter forms begin to appear. Random letters and numbers recur throughout the writing sample, based on the student's developing knowledge. The student is still confused about such early concepts as words, directionality, and the use of space.



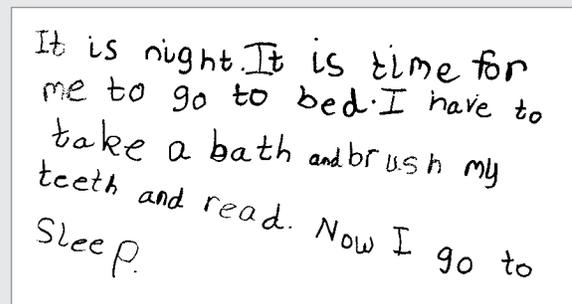
Transitional Stage: Some letter-sound correspondences and correctly spelled words begin to appear as the student moves into the transitional stage. However, they may be mixed with isolated letters and numerals.



Stylized Sentence Stage: As a student acquires a core writing vocabulary of frequently used words, he or she begins to use these words to construct sentences with simple patterns. The student is also beginning to refine concepts of spacing and letter-sound correspondence.



Writing Stage: A student moves beyond the stylized sentence stage as he or she learns to compose stories and acquires a larger writing vocabulary. The student uses more conventional spelling, longer sentences, and punctuation.



Fluent Stage: Fluent writers begin to develop strategies for the craft of writing. These strategies include elaborating (voice), critiquing their own writing and others' writing, writing in different genres, using what they know about reading text to write, using the writing process, and developing a sense of audience. Fluent writers spell most words correctly and carefully edit their spelling while they write. They also have a wide vocabulary and know how to use a thesaurus and dictionary to expand their current vocabulary. Fluent writers understand text structures (compare and contrast, descriptive, procedural, problem/solution, and cause/effect), text functions (narrative, expressive, informative, and poetic), and tenses. They write on a wide variety of topics including personal experiences and nonfiction topics.