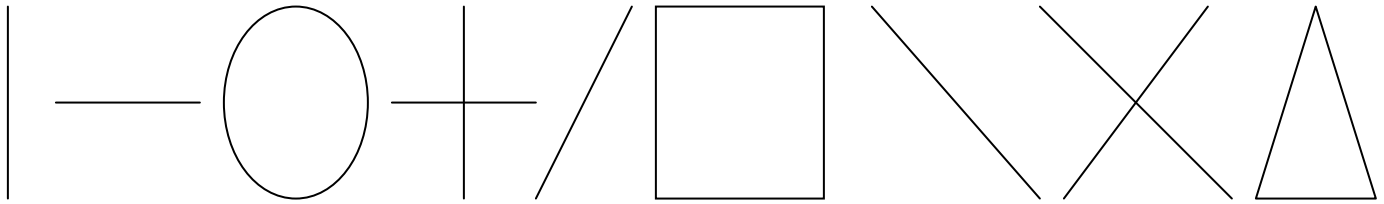


Pre-printing Skills

Many skills are required to prepare a child for the task of printing. Being able to draw basic geometric shapes forms the basis of pre-printing skills.

Pre-printing strokes should be learned in the following order



The average age at which children are able to draw all these forms is 5 years, 3 months.

The child who does not have these basic skills will likely have difficulty learning to print letters or print their name.

There are four basic steps in learning pre-printing strokes.

Imitation: Sit near child and make the stroke. The child watches you and tries to repeat it.

Tracing: Have the child trace over the stroke with his finger or writing tool in the correct manner.

Copying: Show the child a paper with the stroke already drawn on it. Ask the child to make the same stroke

Independent formation: Ask the child to make the stroke/shape. The child makes the form from memory.

Key points to remember

- Work from large to small movements.
- Work from top to bottom and left to right for all activities.
- Ensure correct figure formation; otherwise they may develop patterns that are hard to break.

Make it fun and memorable!! Don't just limit yourself to pencil and paper. Using various media will enhance your child's learning experiences by incorporating many senses.

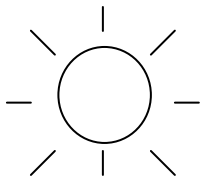
Try:

- "Writing " on aluminum foil, sandpaper or different kinds of paper
- Use lotions, pudding, mud, rice, cornmeal or sand to draw in
- Make shapes and letters out of bread dough, clay, Playdough or Plasticine, Stikki Wikki Stix, pipe cleaners, glue and yarn
- Fill a large Ziploc bag with shaving cream, glop (cornstarch and water), sand or rice, or fill a small cookie sheet with a thick layer of salt, sugar or pudding. Have the student draw letters and numbers with his/her finger on the surface of the bag or cookie sheet

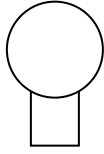
Learning to Draw:

Once your child has learned the above strokes and shapes, they can begin to use these shapes to make recognizable drawings. Printing is putting strokes together to represent a letter. Children can begin to learn to put strokes together in representational drawings. Stick to easy drawings.

Try these:



SUN



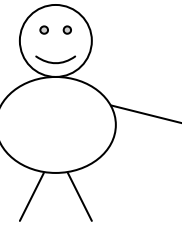
TREE



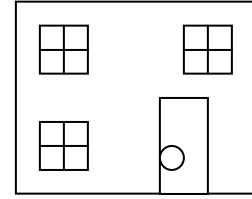
FACE



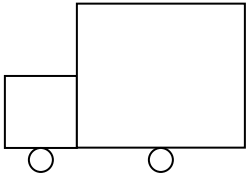
SNOWMAN



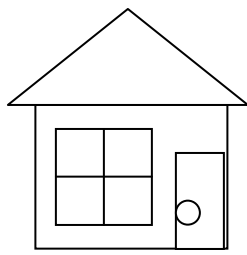
PERSON



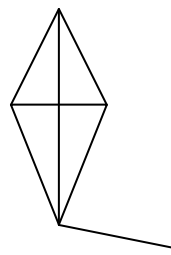
BUILDING



TRUCK



HOUSE



KITE

Learning to draw is actually helping your child learn to print! Printing or drawing can be done in a lot of different positions.