



Stages in Learning to Write

Stage One: Scribbling

- ⇒ Young children love to use markers, crayons, and other writing tools to explore and discover.
- ⇒ Writing at this stage is little more than scribbling, but it takes on definite form.
- ⇒ Children discover that drawing is one thing and writing is another.

Stage Two: Scribble Writing and Letter-Like Forms

- ⇒ Scribbles gradually change into little marks, also called "mock letters." They are not actual letters but look like actual letters because they are made up of the same kinds of lines.
- ⇒ Eventually, actual letters will be found among the mock ones. The first letter of a child's name is usually one of the first to emerge.
- ⇒ With practice, actual letters begin to outnumber mock ones.

Stage Three: Using Letters That Represent Sounds in Words

- ⇒ By the end of preschool years and early in kindergarten, children's writing generally shows increased organization.
- ⇒ Children sit and write rows and rows of letters, sometimes in alphabetical order.
- ⇒ Next, children attempt to write words by writing the sounds they hear (e.g., "I LV U").

