

Hunters Hall Nursery

Physical Development and Early
Writing Workshop
February 2017

Writing is very tricky!

Before children can hold a pencil or write, they must be physically ready.



Large physical movements (gross motor skills)



Digging is great!



Large motor skills

Strengthening the upper body- wide circular movements from the shoulder



Small physical movements (fine motor skills)







Remember some fine motor skills encourage independence too!



As young children develop the muscles in their hands, they develop the strength they need for the fine motor skill needed for writing.

This is an example of very early attempts at mark making. There are lots of random marks, often made over other marks. Adults may describe this mark making as scribbling.

A child at this stage usually can not distinguish the difference between their 'writing' and a picture.



Pencil Grasp Development

Stay At Home Educator

Cylindrical Grasp 1-1/2 years



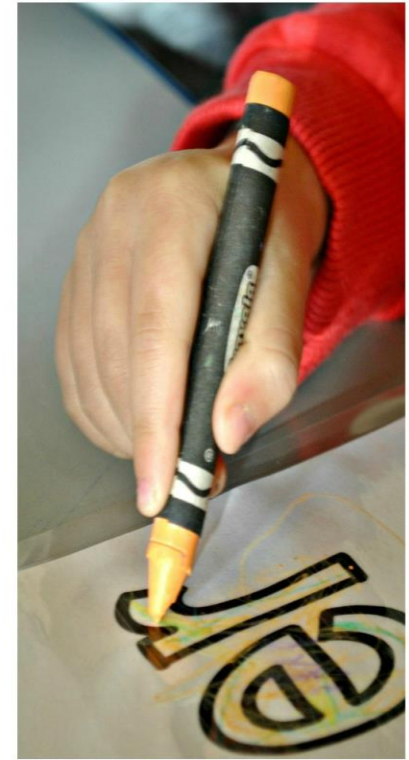
Digital Grasp 2-3 years



Modified Tripod Grasp 3 1/2-4 years



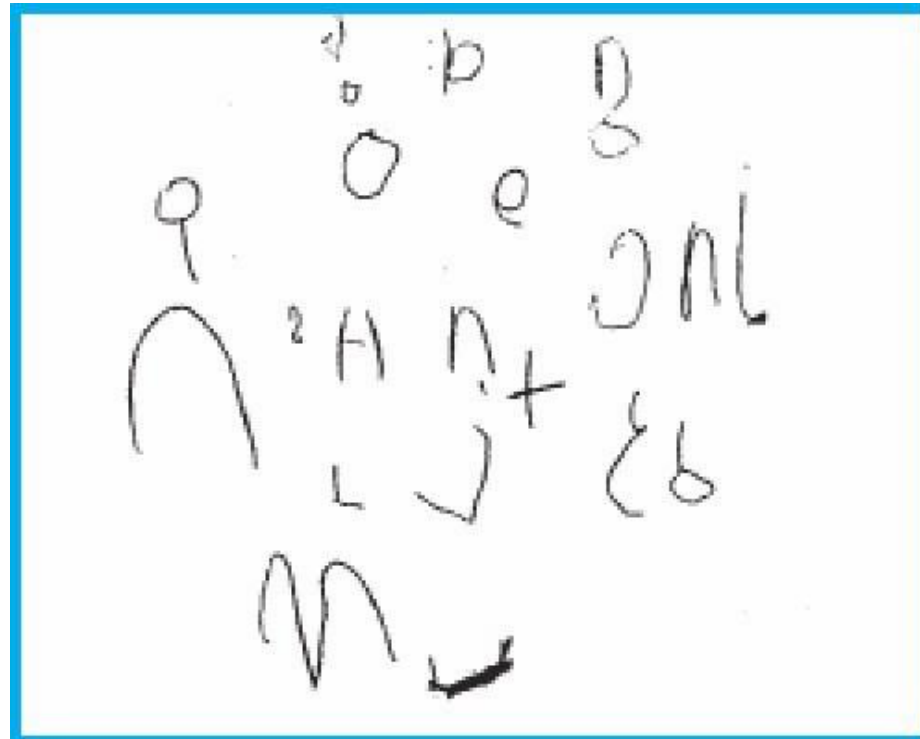
Tripod Grasp 4 1/2-7 years



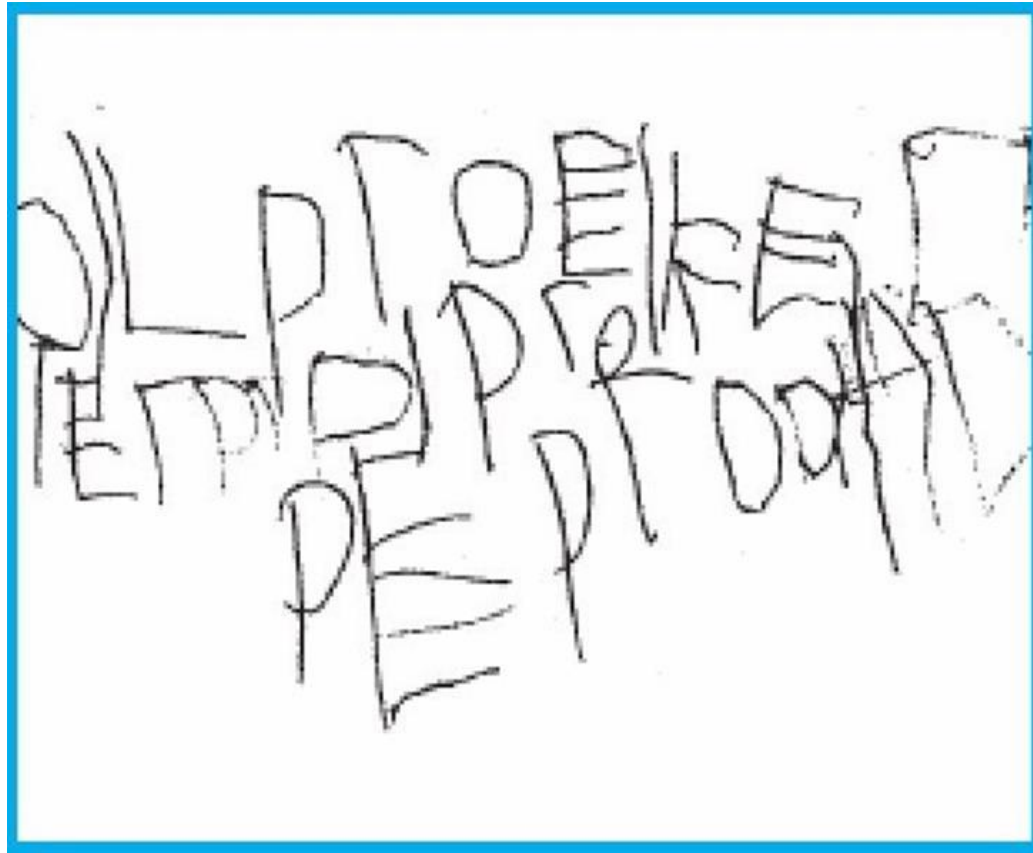
At this stage the marks made go across the page from left to right. These are often zigzags and wavy lines. The child has a clear idea of the marks they want to make and can give meaning to them.



A child may move on to make individual marks and begin to use some recognisable letters from their own name to communicate a message. They are beginning to understand that drawing and writing are different.



Elizabeth's writing





I WT S D

At this stage the child is using some letters to communicate meaning.

They may be able to represent some sounds correctly and in sequence.

They can hear and write the initial sounds in words.



I WNT S DBZ

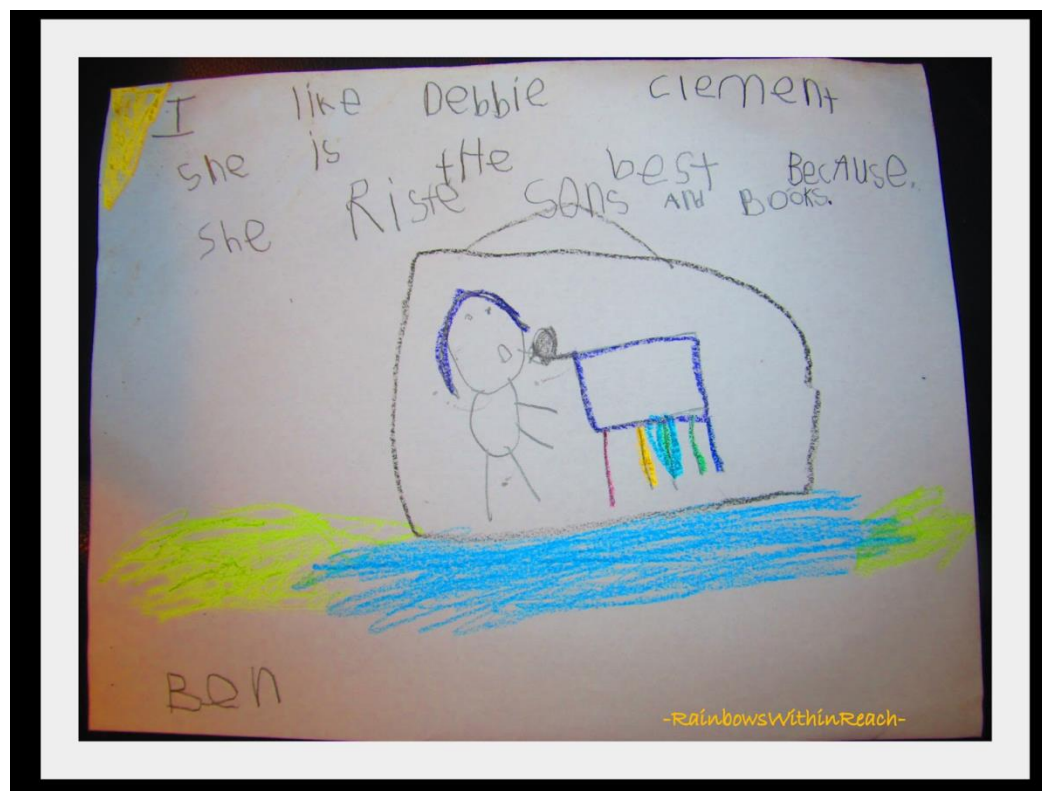
This shows that they can hear and write words with initial, middle and final sounds.



- At this stage the child is using their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They can write sentences which can be read by others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.



- They can also write some irregular common words. This writing meets the criteria for the Early Learning Goal in Writing which is the expected level for children at the end of Reception.





Be a good example!

