

HOW TO TEACH PRINTING

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Don't use a pencil! Instead, start with foundational fine motor and pre-printing skills
2. Follow developmental sequence – see SD42 OT Fine Motor and Printing Skills website
3. Explicit teaching and consistent practice of skills



RECOMMENDED TIMELINE:

1. September – End of November: Foundations

GOAL: to bring the class into a more consistent level of skill/ability and determine which programming stream students will require by December.

HOW: implement activities from the “Promoting Fine Motor Skills and Addressing Fine Motor Delays” and the “Early Pencil Skills and Grasp Development” sections of the SD42 OT website, link here: <https://learningservices.sd42.ca/fine-motor-and-printing-resources/>

*Remember, you can work on pre-literacy and letter recognition without printing. For example, multi-sensory letter games, magnetic letters in rice/beans, work on an easel, matching letters of their name, letter searches and letter sounds.

2. December: Assess and Streamline Students

GOAL: Review individual student skills, to determine readiness for printing.

HOW: Students will fall generally into one of two categories:

- a. **Stream A** – child holds a pencil with a mature grasp, consistent hand preference, knows the majority or all of their letters, can copy the pre-printing strokes.
 - i. **What's Next?** Provide them with Printing Like a Pro* Kindergarten Worksheets and teach them accordingly. Remember that if you see any student struggling, slow down to match their pace. Follow the Printing Like a Pro program as it is outlined. See the link to the program on the SD42 OT Fine Motor and Printing Resources website, under the “How to Teach Printing” subsection.
- b. **Stream B** – child is unable to hold their pencil correctly, struggling to recognize letters, hand preference possibly lacking, eyes not engaged on the page, still scribbling, struggling with pre-printing strokes.
 - i. **What's Next?** Continue with the September-November plan above, and consider embedding the Green ‘My First School Book’ or the Purple ‘Kick

Start Kindergarten' Learning Without Tears workbook. See the link to the workbooks on the SD42 OT Fine Motor and Printing Resources website, under the "How to Teach Printing" subsection. Consider making laminated pre-printing worksheets, using resources from the SD42 OT website. Use of apps such as the Letter School or iWriteWords may also be helpful.

**Printing Like a Pro! Is a free, evidenced-based resource for teaching students how to print*

3. January-June: Monitoring and Progression

- Continue to monitor student skills and promote their development working through the Printing Like a Pro program, or through additional fine motor and pre-printing activities.
- Implement these activities consistently and if by March, you are still concerned, or progress has stalled, contact your school OT.