



## Learning Services

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## KINDERGARTEN PRE-PRINTING PROGRAM

### Background:

- Printing requires several key foundation skills:
  - Understand that letters/numbers have meaning (visual/cognitive skill)
  - Ability to identify difference between upper and lower case letters + numbers (visual/cognitive skill)
  - Ability to consistently hold writing utensil correctly (fine motor skill - hand strength & coordination)
  - Ability to imitate, copy and spontaneously draw each precursor shape (visual/motor skill)

In term 1, OT recommends minimal printing as you work on the pre-printing skills through the activities outlined in this handout. Watch as your students begin to hold their writing utensils correctly and spontaneously & easily develop "real" printing skills!

### SET UP:

- CT or EA to run group of 4 - 6 during centre time (daily 10-15min)
- Ideally vertical whiteboard/easel surface (improves shoulder strength & promotes proper wrist position for writing) individual whiteboards OK!
- Have kids erase their work - put down pen, erase, re-orient pen correctly to practice grasp

### MATERIALS:

- Various fabric, sponges, putty, googly eyes, thick white board pens, white board(s), rice/bean box, magnetic letters, letter/number puzzles.

## STEP 1 - WARM UP HANDS FIRST

- Complete Readiness Exercises (see handout)
- Choose a fabric or sponge, rub all over hands
- Can also warm-up hands squishing, rolling, pulling putty

## STEP 2a - TEACH FINGER TUCK (place pen cap in last 3 fingers)



FOR RIGHT HANDERS



FOR LEFT HANDERS

## STEP 2b - TEACH PROPER PEN GRASP (pinch thumb & index finger)

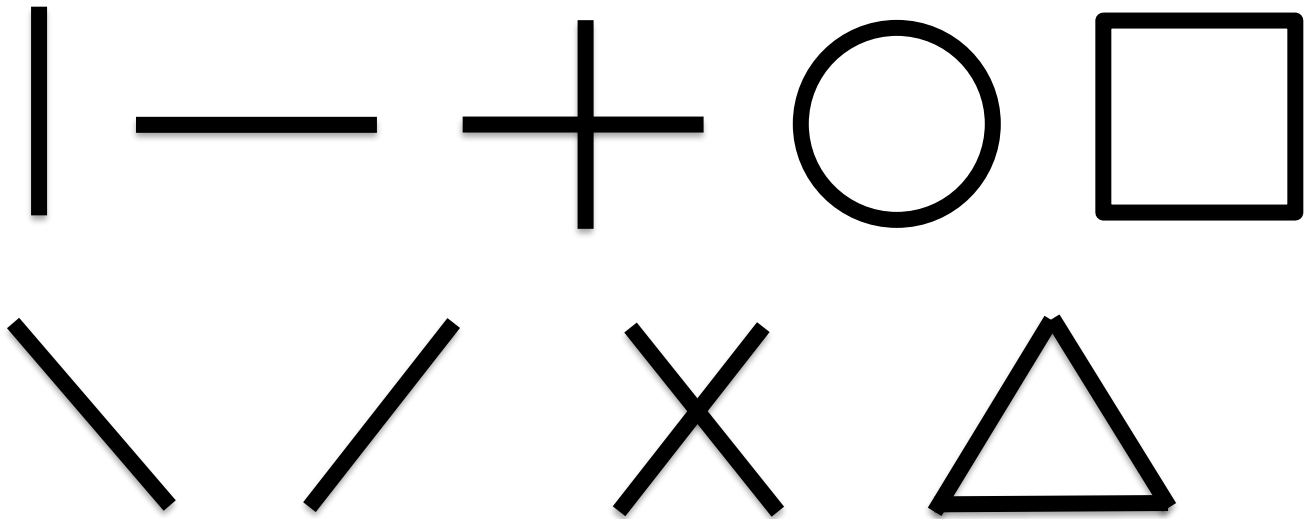


FOR RIGHT HANDERS



FOR LEFT HANDERS

### STEP 3 - FOLLOW PROGRESSION OF PRECURSOR SHAPES



### STEP 4 - PRACTICE EACH TYPE OF LINE USING A CORRECT GRASP

- Progression: Easiest (*imitates adult*), copies example, Hardest (*from memory*)
- Adult ensure child is using proper pincer grasp (note challenges for ST/OT)
- Size Progression: Start BIG (1 per page) - once successful move smaller
- Emphasize start @ top & controlled stop

### STEP 5 - WORK ON VISUAL LETTER/NUMBER RECOGNITION

- Rice/bean bin with magnetic letters/numbers
- Letter/number puzzles (Letter Match - 2 columns of letters - draw lines to match)
- Memory games with letter cards
- HWT wooden letters