

"NO SCHOOL TODAY"

Homework Packet for Pre-School

Dear Pre-School Parents,

School can be canceled for many reasons: snow, ice, heating issues, and flooding....

This packet of activities is used when your child's school day has been canceled. It is a list of activities to keep the learning happening while not at school. They are short, fun and most can be completed without tears!

Nothing needs to be returned to school. We will continue to review and check for understanding in the classroom.

Remember, our school website has lots of learning ideas—ppps.maso.k12.wv.us

Thank you!

Reading and Language

Day 1---

Look at books or magazines together. Talk about the faces you see and the emotions they express. For example, a smile may mean you're happy; but, a frown means you're sad.

Day 2---

Recite or sing Nursery Rhymes together. For extra fun, use different voices, add hand motions, or act them out.

Day 3---

Read a children's book with your child. Discuss who the characters are in the story, where the story takes place, what happens first, next, and last. Encourage your child to be an "illustrator" and draw their favorite part of the book or their favorite character.

Day 4---

Practice making the strokes used in printing your child's name. A guide has been included.

Math

Day 1---

Be a "Shape Seeker". Seek out shapes around your house. Look for circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles. Count how many you find.

Day 2---

Practice counting 1 to 10.

Day 3---

Practice counting objects 1 to 10.

Day 4---

Go on a counting spree! Count the number of people, pets, windows, and doors in your house. Help your child make the numbers.

Help Me Hold the Crayon



There are easy ways to help your child. Even if you're not a teacher, and don't hold the pencil correctly yourself, you can still be a very good influence on your child. Here's how:

1. Choose the right writing tools.
2. Show your child how to hold them.
3. Be a good example.

How do I choose the right writing tools?

- As soon as your child is past age 3 or the "puts things in his mouth, swallowing" stage, give your child little broken pieces of chalk or crayon to use and lots of big sheets of paper for free scribbling/drawing.
- Little pieces of finger food also encourage finger skills.

Why little pieces?

Little pieces develop fingertip control and strength. They encourage the precise pinch that's used for crayons and pencils. Notice how well your child uses his/her fingers with little pieces. There's research to show that starting with small pieces encourages the correct grasp.

What about regular crayons and pencils?

They're fine, but you must show your child how to hold and use them. Save the pencils for later. Pencils are sharp pointed sticks and really aren't appropriate for beginners. Fat pencils and crayons are too heavy for little hands.

When should I start?

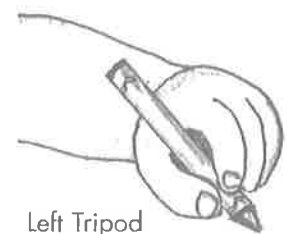
Right now. You can start showing your child how to use crayons as soon as your child wants to color.

How do I show my child?

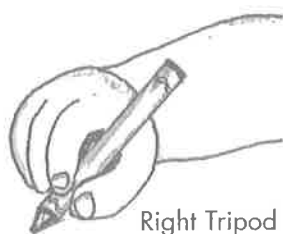
1. Teach your child to name the first 3 fingers – the thumb, the "pointer", and the "tall man."
2. Move them - Give a "thumbs up" and wiggle the thumb. Have your child point with the pointer finger and then put the "tall man" beside the pointer finger.
3. Make a big open "O" pinch – this positions the thumb and pointer correctly.

What is the correct grip?

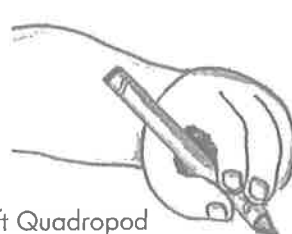
Here's a picture. Notice that there is a choice. Some children like to "pinch" with the thumb and pointer. That's the tripod (3—pinch with thumb and pointer, pencil rests on tall man). Others like the quadropod (4—pinch with thumb and pointer/tall man together, pencil rests on ring finger).



Left Tripod



Right Tripod



Left Quadropod



Right Quadropod

What else can I do?

1. Pick up and Drop it! This is a fun way to practice placing the fingers correctly. Help your child pick up the pencil and get all the fingers placed. Then drop it! See if your child can put all the fingers back in the right place again. Repeat two or three times.
2. Aim and Scribble. Make tiny stars or spots on paper. Teach your child how to aim the crayon and land on a star to make it shine. Help the crayon hand rest on the paper, with the elbow down and the hand touching the paper. Help the helper hand hold the paper. Now just wiggle the fingers to scribble.
3. Show your child how to hold and move the crayon to make different strokes, back and forth, up and down, round and round.

Help Me Write My Name



"That's my name. My name starts with ____." Maybe your child is trying to write or even make letters you can recognize. If so, then it's time to start showing your child how to write a few letters. Here's how:

1. Be a good example.
2. Write in all capital letters.
3. Start every letter at the top.
4. Teach letters step by step.
5. Write on paper strips with a ☺ in the top left corner.

How can I be a good example?

Hold the crayon correctly. Your child will be watching both how you make the letters and how you hold the pencil. Be sure to be a good model. Make a special effort to hold the crayon (or pencil) correctly when you write for your child.

Why should I use all capitals?

Capitals are the first letters to learn. Capitals are the first letters children can visually recognize and remember. Capitals are the first letters children can physically write.

Does it matter where my child starts letters?

It really does. English has one basic rule for both reading and writing: read and write English from top to bottom, left to right. When you write with your child, always start at the top. Write letters top to bottom and left to right.

What do I say when I teach the letters?

This is easy. Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you're making. Say "big" or "little" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape, like this: D = "I make a big line. Now I make a big curve." See the ABC chart to check the words.

What kind of paper should I use?

Just fold a paper in half the long way and then in half again. Cut. That will give you four strips, about 2" by 11". You can adjust the size if your child needs to write bigger. Now put a ☺ in the top left corner of each strip. Use two strips. You write on the top one; your child writes on the bottom one. Make the capital letters as big as the paper.

What about hard letters?

Some letters, like S or diagonal letters like M and N are tricky. You can write with a highlighter pen on your child's paper to help guide your child.

What about lowercase letters?

Lowercase letters are for children in kindergarten. Wait until your child is at the kindergarten level and knows the capitals before you introduce lowercase letters. The skills your child learns with capitals will help your child succeed with lowercase letters.

Help Me Write My Name, cont.



Using CAPITAL STRIPS

Since we teach developmentally, we write "NAME" in Pre-K and transition to "Name" in kindergarten.

Why CAPITALS first?

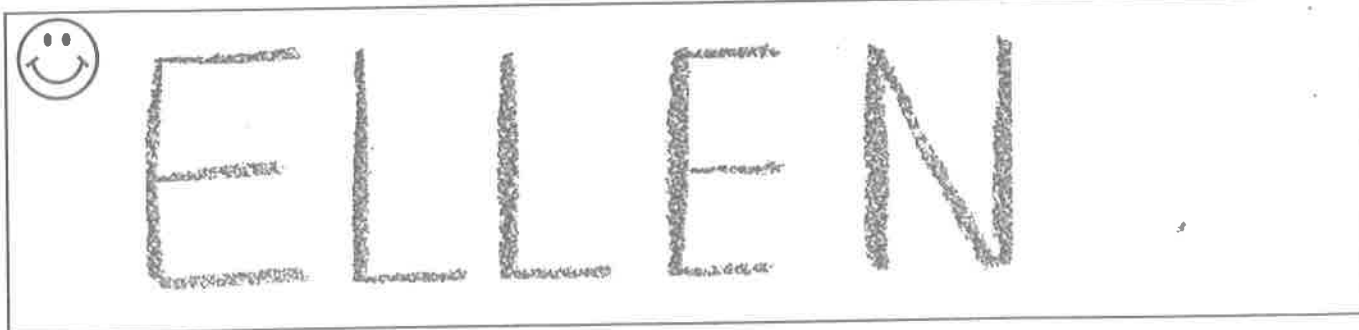
- Capitals are the easiest letters to write.
- Capitals are easy to recognize and are familiar.
- Capitals are the same height.
- Capitals start at the same place, the top.
- Capitals are in the same position.

Use CAPITAL STRIPS with a ☺ for instruction. Put your strip above the child's strip. Demonstrate each letter on your strip and wait for the child to imitate you. Do this letter by letter. (See below.) If the child needs a model to trace, use a highlighter. Don't use dots. They make it difficult for the child to see the letter as a whole symbol.

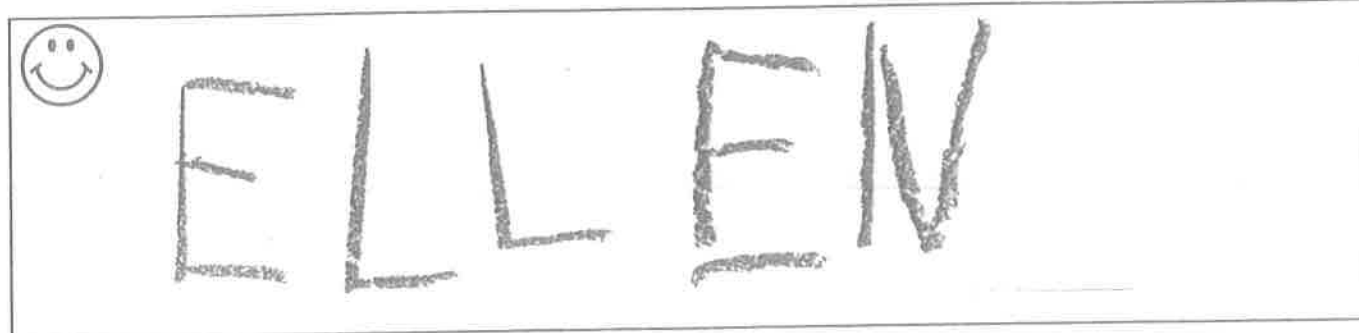
Tips for Parents

- Don't worry about using lowercase letters. Children will transition to using a beginning capital and lowercase in kindergarten. Lowercase letters are too difficult for preschoolers.
- Be sure that the children start every letter at the top. See the attached letter chart for letter formation.
- You can vary the size of the CAPITAL STRIPS to suit the child's size preference. Remember to put a ☺ in the top left corner as a cue for right side up and where to start.
- If a child has already been taught to use lowercase, that's fine too. Just check to see if the letters are formed correctly. Remember that no letters ever start at the bottom. Not even lowercase letters.

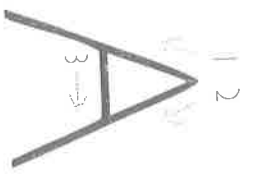
Parent or Teacher strip



Child strip



HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS®



Big line
Big line
Little line



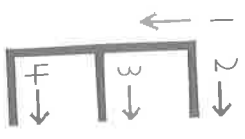
Big line
Little curve
Little curve



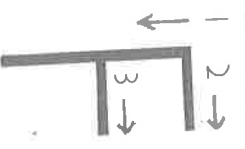
Big C curve



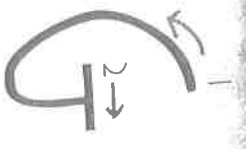
Big line
Big curve



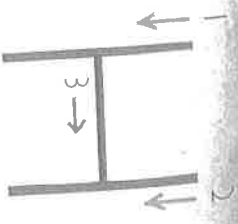
Big line
Little line
Little line
Little line



Big line
Little line
Little line



Big curve
Little line
Little line



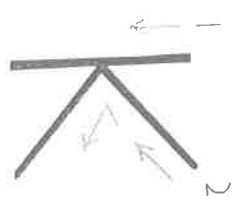
Big line
Big line
Little line



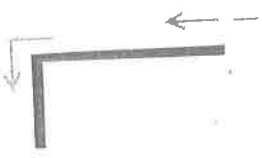
Big line
Little line
Little line



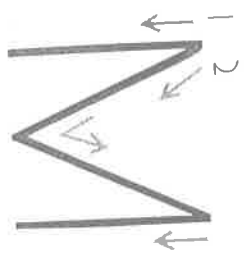
Big line
Turn
Little line



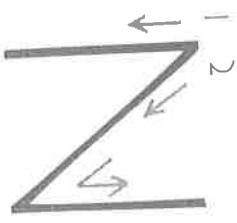
Big line
Little line
Little line



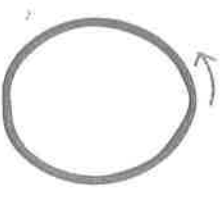
Big line
Little line



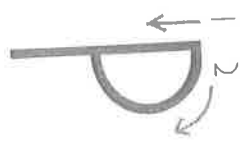
Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



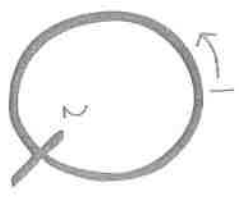
Big line
Big line
Big line



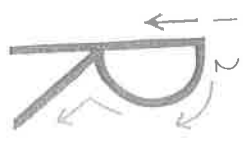
Big C curve
Keep going



Big line
Little curve



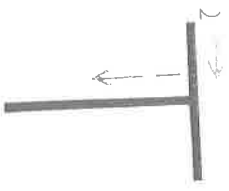
Big C curve
Keep going
Little line



Big line
Little curve
Little line



Little curve
Turn
Little curve



Big line
Little line



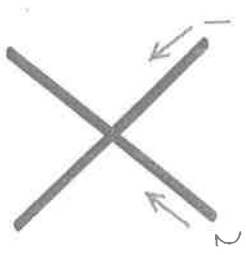
Big line
Turn
Big line



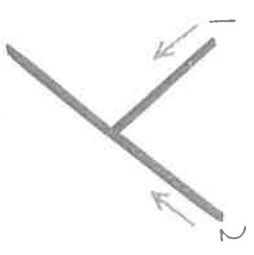
Big line
Big line



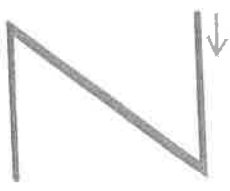
Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line



Little line
Big line



Little line
Big line
Little line