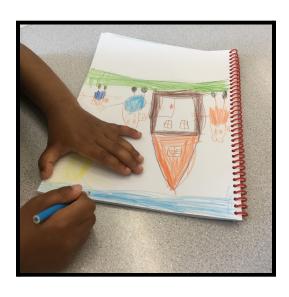
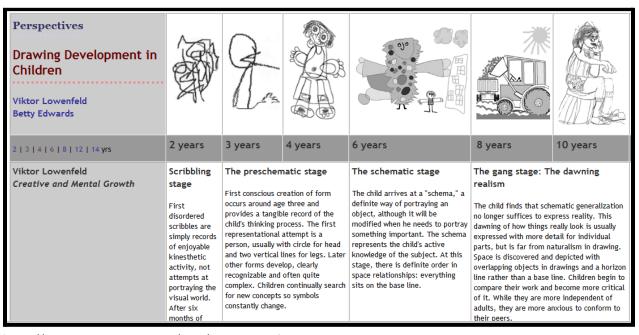
What does journaling look like in the classroom?

- A journal is a place for children to express themselves through drawing and mark making. The adult's job is to support and scaffold, based on each child's need.
- A journal can be a small teacher-made booklet with a few blank pages stapled together, a blank composition book, or a small spiral notebook.
- A journal is a place where children can write stories about themselves, things that happened in their lives, their families, experiences, etc.
- Some children also will want to write stories about fictional events.
- Labeling and dictation are at the heart of young children's early journaling experiences.
- Initially the child may begin with a drawing and teachers can label the drawing with a few words.
- Eventually children will tell longer stories and may need gentle scaffolding to expand their narratives.



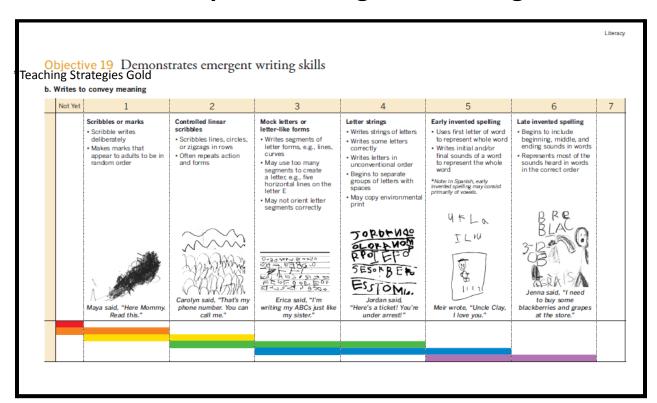


Developmental Stages of Drawing



 $^{*\}underline{\text{http://thevirtualinstructor.com/blog/the-stages-of-artistic-development}}$

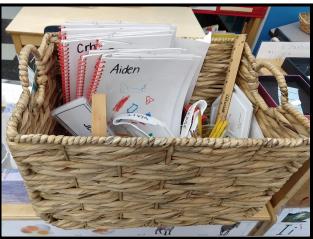
Developmental Stages of Writing



Establishing the Journaling Environment

- **1.** Think about when you might do journaling, such as in a small group during morning choice or rest time.
- **2.** Create a place in the classroom for all of the journaling materials to be located, such as a basket or a shelf in the writing area. This place should be accessible to children and have:
 - A journal for each child
 - Short writing pencils, colored pencils and crayons
 - A date stamp and ink pad
 - A basket of familiar pictures/words to give children inspiration and words to copy (mom, dad, cat, etc.)
- **3.** Develop systems for tracking who has had a turn and who needs a turn, each week. Some teachers:
 - Use a "To Do" basket and a "Completed" basket
 - Create a weekly checklist
 - Divide children into Journaling Groups, for each days of the week







Ways to Inspire Journaling

In whole or small group lessons, teachers could:

- Model journaling using a shared group experience.
- Generate journaling topics (Morning Meeting discussion is a good time for this).
- Create anchor charts of topics for journaling. Some may be:

Favorite things	Family
School	Food
The Playground	Animals
Home	Current theme topic

