

Home-School Connections

Teachers and schools should share information with families on fine motor, mark making, drawing and writing development. Encouraging appropriate pencil grip, fine motor activities and writing support will help children develop tools and skills to begin writing independently.

Some activities that promote Fine Motor Development:

- Helping to cook! Measuring, sorting, cutting and pouring ingredients.
- Lego and Block play.
- Cleaning up toys, especially small ones.
- Doing puzzles.
- Sorting any small manipulatives.
- Playing with play-doh or clay.
- Stringing beads, cheerios, or pasta.
- Sorting socks, silverware, etc.
- Using sponges to wash and clean.
- Basters or eyedroppers in the sink or bath.

Families can continue to support young writers by:

- Demonstrating the many reasons why people need to read and write in the home and outside world.
- Writing on paper, which is more meaningful for young children than typing.
- Taking advantage of any writing opportunity children can participate in.
- Together families can:
 - compose shopping or grocery lists
 - send notes
 - make cards (birthdays, thank-yous, etc.)
 - create visual schedules
 - write letters to mail

All of these can be done through- mark-making, drawing, and/or writing. Remember that various forms of writing will hold deep meaning for children at different levels of development. Inviting children to make visual messages to which adults (and children) can “add words” supports children toward becoming confident and competent writers.