

Working with Children's Names

Young children love their names. It is often the first written print that they identify with, and the first word they learn to write. All Writing Centers should be equipped with children's names, initially with pictures, so that they can begin to identify their own and peers' names in print.





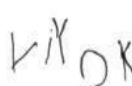



Children's names are a vehicle for letter and phonics teaching and learning. When teachers engage in public writing they will often begin writing a word and have a child say "that's my name!" as they write a singular letter. This is a teaching moment to acknowledge that the letter starts the child's name. Children should engage in many opportunities to manipulate the letters in their names, while teachers help them identify the sounds each letter makes.



Stages of Name Writing

Children benefit from many opportunities to trace their name before they are expected to write it independently. When children do begin writing their names independently, they should be given a model to copy from.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Scribbles or marks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scribble writes deliberately Makes marks that appear to adults to be in random order  <p>Carolyn</p>	Controlled linear scribbles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scribbles lines, circles, or zigzags in rows Often repeats action and forms  <p>Lilly</p>	Mock letters or letter-like forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes segments of letter forms, e.g., lines, curves May use too many segments to create a letter, e.g., five horizontal lines on the letter E May not orient letter segments correctly  <p>Paula</p>	Letter strings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes some letters correctly Writes letters in unconventional order  <p>Emma</p>	Partially accurate name <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes all the letters of own name, although some may not be sequenced correctly Writes all the letters of own name, but some of the letters are not formed or oriented correctly  <p>Vicky</p>	Accurate name <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes all the letters of own name in the correct sequence, form, and orientation Uses uppercase or lowercase letters (or a combination of both) when writing name  <p>Brooke</p>