


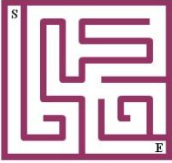
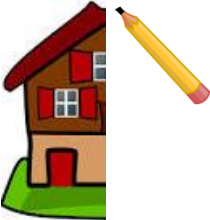


Top Tips for Developing Writing Skills

Before carrying out any of the activity suggestions below, always prepare your child by discussing the strategies beforehand and let them take the lead as much as possible. Choose the ones that you feel are most appropriate for your child. The lists of activities are not prescriptive and you can vary them. Use a little and often approach to ensure your child has fun with these activities.

| Activities | |
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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For hand skills encourage sitting at a table or sitting on the floor so that the child does not have to balance at the same time. • Have fun drawing shapes, numbers and letters in shaving foam spread on a mirror or bathroom tiles. • Colouring in, try to keep within the lines. Painting by numbers. • Finger painting – you could even finger paint using cream or jelly. • Make shapes on a tray of sand; can you make lines, circles and squares? Can you draw a smiley face? • Try and write your name on different types of paper e.g. a paper bag, corrugated card, greaseproof paper, foil, sandpaper. • Try racetrack drawing. Ask an adult to help you make a racetrack in sand or on paper (two lines 5cm apart). Use a toy car or your finger to race along the track. Change the track to make it narrower and add zigzags, bridges and junctions. • Play “Simon Says” to draw shapes or letters in the air e.g. “Simon says draw a circle” • Can you make a shape, letter or your name out of string or a pipe cleaner? Can you write the alphabet or make a picture? • Mazes and dot to dot puzzles. • Stencil drawing - you could make a name plate for your bedroom. |

| Activities | |
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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play “Guess the air word” – write a word in the air using your finger or a stick with a piece of ribbon attached and ask someone to guess what you are writing. The try and guess what they write. You could choose themes e.g. animals, food. Make a large movement, use whole arm. • Tracing pictures. Choose a picture from a book. Place a piece of greaseproof paper over it and trace the outline. Turn the piece of greaseproof paper over. Place it on a blank sheet of paper, and draw over it again. • Half and half. Choose a picture from a magazine, cut in half. Stick it to a piece of paper and see if you can draw in the other half. • Using your finger, write a word on a friend’s back and see if they can guess what it is. Ask them to write a message on your back. You could make a message train with friends and pass the message down the line. |