

## Writing in PreK

**Emergent writers** are young writers whose writing ranges from random scribbling to letter strings. They communicate mainly through drawings, and cannot read their writing the following day. These writers need instruction in:

- Message principle - what we say can be written down
- Print principles - spacing, directionality, text wrapping
- Letter formation
- Letter/sound relationships

Stage 1 - Children draw randomly and may or may not be able to tell about their drawings. To take them to the next stage, these children need:

- Lots of exposure to print
- Tracking and text wrapping modeled with large text
- Opportunities to explore with writing tools

Stage 2 - Children begin to notice symbols and to make mock letters. In the beginning of this stage, the young writer still may not have a message, but later begins to attach a message to the print. To take them to the next stage, these children need:

- To learn to write their names
- To learn to write the word "I"
- To learn that what we say is made of words that are separated by spaces

Stage 3 - Children write letter strings using familiar letters, usually from their own names. To take them to the next stage, these children need:

- To know a few sight words
- To learn some letter/sound relationships based on their names or names of friends

**Developing writers** are young writers who have broken the sound/symbol code. They are beginning to decode their own writing and read it the following day.

Stage 4 - Children write using initial sounds

- Coaching for spacing
- Additional sight words

Stage 5 - Children are beginning to hear and use ending sounds. These children need:

- Practice in sound stretching to hear medial sounds
- Begin with long vowels first
- Continue adding sight words