

## 3 Tips for Growing Writers

Learning to write known as pre-writing skills or emergent writing happens in a series of stages for young children. This process often looks like scribbles on paper to the adults yet it is these first scribbles that let's us know children are interested in writing. The role of the adult is to take notice, supply materials and encourage young children's interest and enthusiasm!

### What you can do...

**Make Alphabet Books Available:** Reading books about the alphabet gives the adult a natural way to point out letters and have conversations. Children will begin to name letters and develop an interest in the shapes and sounds. One wonderful Alphabet book is, "Alphabet City" by Stephen T. Johnson. This book has real pictures of places letters can be seen hidden in landscapes and buildings. Follow up with a walk through your own neighborhood to see how many letters you can find.

**Create a Writing Center:** Have paper, envelopes and other types of paper such as index cards and small notebooks. Also include a variety of writing tools. Colored pencils, pens, crayons and markers. Children go through a series of developmental stages of learning how to write. Having materials available for play helps children build the small muscles skills needed to write.

**Stages of Writing:** Some things you can expect to see are scribbling, pretend or mock letters, copying of letters and invented spelling(making words up). By placing a date on children's pictures as you save them you can look back and see the child's progress over time.

### How does this benefit children...

Children benefit from having a variety of experiences of letters. When adults provide the materials we are supporting children's interest and natural curiosity for learning to write.

