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This post may contain affiliate links. Please read our disclosure policy. Adult supervision is required for all activities found on HappyToddlerPlaytime.com. Create fun and writing skills using items you already have at home. All these ideas a simple to set up and fun for your little
learner. So fun that they won't even realize they are practicing their hand writing. If your preschooler is anything like mine they are eager to learn and absolutely love it when they can do something grown up. But they also are easily frustrated. It's hard being 3 & 4 years old when your body, skills and desires don't always line up. Check out these fun
and easy to set up pre-writing activities to help your preschooler practice their writing Salt Tray by Frugal Fun 4 Boys Rainbow Writing Tray by NurturStore Paint Writing Tray by Happy Toddler Playtime Pre-writing Activities with Squishy Bag by Learning 4
Kids Playdough Learning: Prewriting for Toddlers by Kids Activities Blog Shaving Cream by Gift of Curiosity Shaving Cream by Gift of Curiosity Shaving Cream Pre-Writing: Connect the Dots by School Time Snippets Glitter Writing Tray by Happy Toddler Playtime Toddler Zen Tray by Busy Toddler
Slime Writing Tray by The OT Toolbox Coloured Salt Writing Tray by Fantastic Fun and Learning Christmas Tree Writing Tray by Happy Hooligans Glitter
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Letters by Happy Toddler Playtime Magnetic Prewriting by Days with Grey Teaching Preschoolers to Write Using Fine Motor Journals by Stay At Home Educator ABC Tracing Pages with Playdough Mats by 3 Dinosaurs Visualizing Letters: A Pre-Writing Activity for Preschoolers by This Reading Mama Fine Motor Activities to Develop Pre-Writing Skills
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Activity by Modern Preschool Playdough and Glass Gem Pre-writing Activity by The Letters of Literacy These activities are great for Language and Vocabulary Development, Trial & Error, Visual Perception, Cognitive Development. This activity is ideal for 3 year old preschoolers and
up. Pre-writing activities for preschoolers can help set up our youngest learners to become proficient writers as they progress through school. Learning to write is a complex task! Children need adequate fine motor dexterity and strength, and they also need to know how letters look and how to form those shapes. The National Early Literacy Panel
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Without Tears for lots of great support. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers All you need to make these awesome sensory bags is resealable zipper storage bags filled with a paste of flour, water, and letters on the bag. What a great way to recycle
all that leftover bubble wrap! Simply write letters on sheets of bubble wrap with a Sharpie. Then have kids trace them as they pop their way to letter recognition. Flatten out a medium-size ball of play dough like a pancake on a flat surface. Then use a sharp object to draw a letter on the flattened area. Make sure that the letter is large enough to be
easily recognizable when filled with straws. Cut plastic straws into 1-inch segments. Students use dot marker worksheets. Sarah Cason via We Are
Teachers Kids can't resist the sensory lure of play dough! For this activity, kids can roll small balls of dough into long snakes and form letters by bending and creating with them. Put their creative energy to good use by
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outline. One of the simplest pre-writing activities to put together for your preschoolers is a sand tray. Kids can use their fingers or an unsharpened pencil to practice writing. As an alternative to sand, you can fill your tray with salt or sugar and let
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adjustments to their grip. Pre-writing lines are important building blocks for any preschooler to master before learning letter formations. Download this glitter glue pre-writing line practice for preschoolers activity. This resource is so simple to make, and kids love it! Simply tape colored tissue paper in a rainbow pattern to the bottom of a clear plastic
tray. Fill it with sand, and as the kids trace lines and letters, the colors below are revealed. For extra fun, place the tray on top of a light table to add a glowing dimension to the rainbow. This is a fun center activity for learning letters. Provide students with a roll of colored masking tape and a clear surface, like a mirror, window, or table. Then have
them tear off sections of tape to form letters. Write letters on a magnet board with a dry-erase marker and let your little ones trace them with magnets. Or make letters with masking tape and draw a dotted line down the middle, creating a "road." Then students can "drive" car magnets along the letter road. Grasping a string between tiny fingers and
threading the end through the holes in a lacing card is great fine motor practice for preschoolers. It also begins to build muscle memory for holding a pencil properly. Create your own lacing cards with card stock and a hole punch. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers This classic activity is a great starting place for pre-writers. All you need is a tray and
a can of shaving cream. Then, students can use a stick, a swab, or their finger as they write letters, shapes, or words. Preschoolers will have so much fun creating patterns, swirls, squiggles, and zigzags with colorful buttons. And they'll be building fine motor skills while they're at it! Preschoolers need to use a pinching motion, which builds hand
strength, to peel sticker dots off the page. Then, they use hand-eye coordination to place each sticker along a drawn line. This activity, you will need poster paper and a palette of washable ink. Draw letters,
shapes, and lines on a clean piece of paper. Then, show kids how to dip their pointer finger onto the ink pad and follow the lines dot by dot. Using a clothespin requires grip strength. Any activity that involves clipping clothespins will help kids build the fine motor skills required for writing. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers Cutting and snipping
activities with scissors are excellent ways for children to practice fine motor skills and control. Give your students lots of opportunities to practice their cutting skills with paper, string, card stock, and even snakes of Play-Doh! Scrunching paper into a ball is great for building hand strength. Let your preschoolers use computer paper, newspaper,
tissue paper, or wrapping paper to create a tight ball. Then play a game of paper ball tag! As young learners grasp a paintbrush and apply paint onto melting ice, they're building fine motor skills. This helps develop hand-eye coordination and strengthens the muscles in their hands and fingers. Amazon Preschoolers enjoy tactile fun and learning while
building small motor skills with these dough stampers. Sturdy alphabet stamps can be pushed into soft play dough or clay. Includes all 26 letters. Buy it: Dough Stampers Take your preschoolers outside and let them loose on the sidewalk with a cup of water and a paintbrush. Let them draw squiggles, lines, letters, etc. All of these options reinforce
writing skills. Alternatively, let students use colored chalk. Pipe cleaners can be used for a variety of pre-writing activities to help preschoolers develop their finger muscles and fine motor skills. Make shapes, add beads, curl them around pencils, and more! Scribbling does wonders for teaching preschoolers how to apply the right amount of pressure
to, and control the movement of, crayons and pencils in order to make them work. And not only that, it's fun! Use poster paper or cardboard boxes to make it a group project. Learning to write with a pencil is important, but for learning letters, fingers can work just as well. Prepare letter cards and demonstrate where to begin. The more students
practice, the greater the muscle memory. Are you concerned that your preschooler isn't ready to start writing? Do you wonder how to build pre-writing skills, help them hold a pencil, form letters, and build the necessary coordination? Fortunately, there are creative and engaging activities specifically designed to strengthen the fine motor skills and
hand-eye coordination needed for writing. Here are 15 fun pre-writing activities that can easily be incorporated into everyday play, helping your child develop the confidence and skills essential for their writing journey. Math & ELA | PreK To Grade 5 Kids see fun. You see real learning outcomes. Watch your kids fall in love with math & reading
through our scientifically designed curriculum. Parents, try for free Teachers, use for free Fine Motor Skills: Fine motor skills help children control the small muscles in their hands and fingers, making writing possible. Engaging in fine motor skills help children control the small muscles in their hands and fingers, making writing possible. Engaging in fine motor skills help children control the small muscles in their hands and fingers, making writing possible.
kids learn to guide their hands when writing? Hand-eye coordination is key, helping them connect what they see with how they move. Grip Strength and Control: Can your child hold a crayon or pencil firmly? Developing grip strength and control is crucial for holding and manipulating writing tools. Muscle Memory: Repeated activities build muscle
memory, making writing more natural and effortless over time. Source @illinoisearlylearning.org Encouraging your child to engage in free-form scribbling and drawing is more than just playtime—it's a crucial step in developing writing skills. When children use crayons, markers, or pencils to create their own drawings, they practice controlling their
hand movements, which is essential for writing later on. This activity helps them develop a proper grip, which is key for holding writing tools comfortably. Additionally, as they experiment with different shapes and lines, they begin to understand the basic strokes that make up letters and numbers, laying the groundwork for writing. Engaging kids in
online fine motor skills games is a fun and effective way to develop their hand-eye coordination and precision. Here are some fun and engaging online games that directly target fine motor skill development. In these games, kids practice precise hand movements by dragging, clicking, and tossing objects, which helps improve their hand-eye
coordination, finger control, and dexterity. These tasks require careful, controlled actions, which are essential for building the fine motor strength needed for writing skills. By using worksheets with simple shapes, straight lines, zigzags, and
curves, children practice the essential hand movements needed for writing. This activity not only strengthens their fine motor skills but also helps them develop muscle memory, crucial for forming letters and numbers. When it comes to writing activities for toddlers, tracing is particularly effective because it teaches them how to control their pencil
or crayon with precision, making the transition to actual writing smoother and more enjoyable. Here are some fun worksheets where your child can practice tracing various shapes and objects. They'll follow dotted lines to carefully trace between the shapes, like 3D objects, a house, and triangles, which will help improve their hand control and
understanding of basic shapes: By tracing over pre-formed letters, children practice the precise movements needed to form each letter correctly. This activity strengthens fine motor skills, enhances hand-eye coordination, and builds the muscle memory essential for fluent writing. Letter tracing also reinforces letter recognition, making it easier for
children to associate the shape of each letter with its corresponding sound. Source @kindercraze.com Dot markers on letters is an engaging and hands-on activity that effectively bridges the gap between recognition and writing. By placing dots along the lines of each letter, children reinforce their understanding of letter shapes and develop fine
motor precision. This activity encourages them to focus on the correct formation of each letter, promoting muscle memory and spatial awareness. As children progress through this activity, they gain confidence in their ability to form letters, laying the groundwork for more advanced writing tasks. Related Reading: How to Teach Letter Formation to
Kids Number tracing worksheets are a valuable tool for teaching children both number recognition and the fine motor skills needed for writing. Here are some fun number tracing activities. Children
trace numbers while matching them to the correct quantity of objects, which strengthens their fine motor skills and prepares them for writing. The tracing motion helps build muscle memory and control, crucial for forming letters and numbers independently later on. Source: @alumni.uod.ac Lacing beads or threading laces through cards requires a
high level of precision and dexterity. These activities involve careful hand movements that help children develop control over their fingers, strengthening the small muscles needed for writing. By focusing on these pre-writing skill activities, children enhance their fine motor skills. The repetitive motion of stringing beads or threading laces also helps
improve hand-eye coordination, making it an excellent preparation for writing. Source @activelittles.com Tearing paper into small pieces and then gluing them onto a surface is a simple yet effective way to build hand muscles and improve coordination. This activity encourages children to use both hands together, which is important for developing
bilateral coordination, a key component of fine motor skills. Including this in pre-writing activities for primary school students can be very beneficial, as it helps them develop the strength and control needed for more complex writing tasks. Source @upub.net Building with blocks is more than just a playtime activity—it's a critical exercise in
developing spatial awareness and fine motor skills. When children stack and arrange blocks, they learn to control their hand movements with precision, which supports the development of fine motor skills necessary for writing. Additionally, the process of balancing and fitting blocks together enhances their understanding of spatial relationships, an
important skill for writing and other academic tasks. Source @fantasticfunandlearning.com Manipulating play dough is a fantastic way for kids to strengthen their hand muscles. When children roll, flatten, pinch, and shape the dough, they're engaging in an activity that builds the fine motor skills necessary for writing. This type of play helps develop
the small muscles in their hands and fingers, which are crucial for holding a pencil or crayon with control. Incorporating play dough into your list of pre-writing activities for kids not only supports their muscle development but also adds a fun, sensory-rich experience that keeps them engaged and learning. Related Reading: Best Sensory Activities for
Preschoolers Source @therapyandwellnessconnection.com Finger painting is more than just messy fun—it's a great way to enhance finger strength, coordination, and sensory awareness. When children use their fingers to paint, they are developing the fine motor skills needed for writing. This activity also allows them to express their creativity and
imagination, making it a valuable part of pre-writing activities for preschoolers. The tactile experience of moving paint around with their fingers also supports sensory development, which is essential for young learners. Related Reading: Best & Easy Painting Ideas for Kids Source @brightlittleowl.com Sand tracing is a tactile activity that reinforces
letter and shape formation through sensory engagement. By using their fingers to trace in a shallow tray of sand, children develop fine motor skills and muscle memory essential for writing development. These pre-writing activities are essential
for building the foundational skills needed for writing. By incorporating these engaging exercises, you help young children develop the fine motor control, muscle memory, and confidence they need to begin writing activities for Kids These pre-writing activities examples provide fun and engaging ways to
help children develop the essential skills needed for writing. By incorporating activities kids can strengthen their fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and muscle memory. Start early with these simple exercises to build a strong foundation for your child's writing journey. Related Reading: Best Name Writing Activities for Kids For 2-year-olds,
simple activities like scribbling with crayons, playing with playdough, and finger painting help them develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and muscle memory needed for children to hold writing tools and form letters effectively. For 3-year-olds,
the pre-writing skills development. That is the reason why it is very important to work on pre-writing skills with young children. We, as parents or teachers, need to be able to model pre-writing activities, I like to use pencil holders that help students adapt their
hand to the pencil and maintain a correct finger posture when holding it for writing. Here is the download link for my pencil holders. Here you have a set with 14 different worksheets. As you can see, we have included several different types of lines to make this learning process as complete as it is possible. Some of the lines that you can find in these
writing skills, they can also work on drawing and attention skills. Once your kids have mastered this process they will be able to start with the reading and writing process. Here you can find reading and writing worksheets for free. When it comes to pre-writing activities for preschoolers, there are a lot of different things you can do to help prepare
your kids for writing letters and numbers. Let's take a look at 10 of the best pre-writing activities that are both fun and educational. These activities will help your child develop the skills return to grip a pencil correctly, control a pencil correctly. What are Pre-writing skills? Pre-writing skills are the basic skills your child develop the skills necessary to grip a pencil correctly.
needs to develop to be able to write. These skills include: Why are Pre-writing Skills Important? Pre-writing Skills ? You can do several pre writing tasks with your child to help them develop the skills necessary
and prepare to write. Here are some fun pre-writing activities for preschoolers that don't involve writing strokes? As kids get more hand strength, have a better pencil grasp and more control over their pencil grasp and more control over their pencil grasp.
strokes will help them develop even more control needed to write letters. A pre-writing line or stroke your child needs to know for letter formation. Think about all the strokes you use when printing the letters of the alphabet. These strokes include: Horizontal straight lines Vertical straight lines Diagonal Lines Curved lines Zigzag
lines. Ways to Practice Pre-writing Strokes There are a bunch of ways that you can help your child practice pre-writing activities for preschoolers that you can help your child practice pre-writing strokes. Here are some fun pre-writing activities for preschoolers that you can help your child practice pre-writing strokes. Here are some fun pre-writing strokes. Here are some fun pre-writing without even holding a pencil. A salt tray or sand tray is a fun sensory
experience and a great way to introduce making lines. Fill a tray with salt or other fun materials and have your child make pre-writing strokes in the salt tray, you don't need to have salt to practice pre-writing. Kids can just use their index fingers to trace the lines
on a letter or shape. Do you notice how these letter cards have a circle to indicate the starting point? This is one of the most effective ways to help kids with proper letter formation. Want to learn more easy ways to use the simple letter cards? Check out this article about letter formation ideas. Write in Shaving Cream Write letters or shapes in shaving
cream on a mirror, window, or on a flat surface like a tabletop. This is a great way to make pre-writing strokes more fun and tactile. Shaving cream Connect the Dots This is a cute connect the dots idea from School Time Snippets. Before writing in shaving cream, start out by putting a dot of shaving cream on the surface, then have kids connect the
dot. I know your kids will have so much fun with this line practice activity. Writing on a Friend's Back Beware! This one might invoke lots of giggles. Young students can make lines on their friends' backs. They can also make lines on their own palm or thigh. Pre-writing worksheets There are a ton of pre-writing worksheets available online and in
classrooms. These are great resources to help your child practice pre-writing strokes. Some pre-writing activity, have just strokes. Some pre-writing practice printables, have tracing lines within images. Simple Mazes I think that easy mazes for preschoolers are a great way to help
young children practice pre-writing strokes. Start with simple mazes and then move on to more complex ones. Match and Connect Images You can make your own match and connect activity page. Add stickers to a piece of paper, and make sure that you have two of every sticker. This great prewriting activity is a printable activity page.
similar to a maze, but it puts their cognitive skills to work as kids are challenged to find the matching images and then connect them with a line. Challenge them to NOT touch any other images on the page. Mark Making in Playdough This is a great idea from Fantastic Fun and Learning. Roll playdough out and use a chopstick or pencil to make lines
on the surface. Fine Motor Crafts Fine motor crafts fine motor crafts for preschoolers. My printable fine motor crafts, provide were specifically designed to give kids opportunities to build fine motor crafts are a great option to sneak in some pre-writing
practice. You can also find additional fine motor crafts like beaded stars, necklaces, and more to help with pre-writing skills. Tactile Cards I love these touch & feel prewriting skills think they
are more exciting than Montessori sandpaper letters. There are endless possibilities! I hope that these tips and fun activities for Preschoolers in the Store Are you ready to get to work on some pre-writing activities for preschoolers?
Check out the following pre-writing activities in the Early Learning Ideas store today. The printable activities are perfect for preschool and kindergarten teachers, occupational therapists, or parents. Purchase the Pre-writing resources in my Teacher Pay
Teacher Store. Additional Writing & Fine Motor Activities for Your Kids Pre-writing activities for preschoolers can help set up our youngest learners to become proficient writers as they progress through school. Learning to write is a complex task! Children need adequate fine motor dexterity and strength, and they also need to know how letters look
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pages of pre-writing dot marker worksheets. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers Kids can't resist the sensory lure of play dough! For this activity, kids can roll small balls of dough into long snakes and form letters by bending and joining the snakes together. To help guide their work, provide letter cards. Blocks! Young kids can't get enough of building
and creating with them. Put their creative energy to good use by having them build letters on letter cards. This activity builds fine motor skills that your young students need to begin writing. Students use inexpensive pony beads (found at any craft store) to follow pre-printed lines. Another fun way to use pony beads: Draw a letter in play dough and
let students trace the letter by lining up pony beads along the outline. One of the simplest pre-writing activities to put together for your preschoolers is a sand tray. Kids can use their fingers or an unsharpened pencil to practice writing. As an alternative to sand, you can fill your tray with salt, flour, cornmeal, or rice. For this easy-to-prepare activity
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and practice writing on paper. Check back and make adjustments to their grip. Pre-writing lines are important building blocks for any preschoolers activity. This resource is so simple to make, and kids love it! Simply tape colored tissue
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the letter road. Grasping a string between tiny fingers and threading the end through the holes in a lacing card is great fine motor practice for preschoolers. It also begins to build muscle memory for holding a pencil properly. Create your own lacing cards with card stock and a hole punch. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers This classic activity is a
great starting place for pre-writers. All you need is a tray and a can of shaving cream. Then, students can use a stick, a swab, or their finger as they write letters, shapes, or words. Preschoolers will have so much fun creating patterns, swirls, squiggles, and zigzags with colorful buttons. And they'll be building fine motor skills while they're at it!
 Preschoolers need to use a pinching motion, which builds hand strength, to peel sticker dots off the page. Then, they use hand-eye coordination to place each sticker along a drawn line. This activity would be perfect for a writing or free-time station. Some kids don't like to get their fingers this messy, but others adore it! For this activity, you will need
poster paper and a palette of washable ink. Draw letters, shapes, and lines on a clean piece of paper. Then, show kids how to dip their pointer finger onto the ink pad and follow the lines dot by dot. Using a clothespin required for writing.
Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers Cutting and snipping activities with scissors are excellent ways for children to practice fine motor skills and control. Give your students lots of opportunities to practice their cutting skills with paper, string, card stock, and even snakes of Play-Doh! Scrunching paper into a ball is great for building hand strength. Let
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Amazon Preschoolers enjoy tactile fun and learning while building small motor skills with these dough stampers. Sturdy alphabet stamps can be pushed into soft play dough or clay. Includes all 26 letters. Buy it: Dough Stampers Take your preschoolers outside and let them loose on the sidewalk with a cup of water and a paintbrush. Let them draw
squiggles, lines, letters, etc. All of these options reinforce writing skills. Alternatively, let students use colored chalk. Pipe cleaners can be used for a variety of pre-writing activities to help preschoolers develop their finger muscles and fine motor skills. Make shapes, add beads, curl them around pencils, and more! Scribbling does wonders for teaching
preschoolers how to apply the right amount of pressure to, and control the movement of, crayons and pencils in order to make it a group project. Learning to write with a pencil is important, but for learning letters, fingers can work just as well. Prepare letter cards
and demonstrate where to begin. The more students practice, the greater the muscle memory. Writing unlocks a whole new world for kids—suddenly they're leaving notes for you, creating storybooks about adventures with friends, and feeling like a grown-up as they sign their name on a library or birthday card. It's also an essential Core Skill, one of
the 5 C's at the heart of the Begin Approach to helping kids thrive in school and life. Most kids don't learn to write until age 4 or 5. But it's never too early to start developing a love for writing! Even if your child can't yet form letters independently, you can use these pre-writing activities for preschoolers to help them become great writers. The Short
Cut Writing is an essential Core Skill, one of the 5 C's that help kids thrive in school and life Kids learn to write in stages. They start with scribbling, progress to writing letters, invent spellings based on how words sound ("second"), and eventually learn to follow conventional spelling rules Pre-writing activities help kids develop
capabilities they'll need to write, including fine motor skills, the ability to draw across the midline, and the understanding that marks on a page can represent real-world objects Parents can help by setting up activities that develop finger dexterity, encourage kids to use crayons and pencils, and introduce kids to forming letters Before you start
working on pre-writing activities with your child, it's important to understand the stages of writing development. This will help you choose appropriate activities for your child's current level. The earliest stage of writing development is known as the preliterate stage. At this point, children are just beginning to experiment with making marks on paper
or scribbling. They are not yet trying to form letters or numbers. The next stage is known as the emergent stage, children start to understand that marks on paper can represent objects in the world. They experiment with making different marks and begin forming simple shapes independently. During the emergent stage,
you might start recognizing more letters on your child's paper. Continue to encourage them as they work hard to develop their writing skills. Next, your child will enter the transitional stage. Here, they begin to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words phonetically. This invented spelling is often creative and not always accurate, but they begin to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words phonetically. This invented spelling is often creative and not always accurate, but they begin to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words phonetically.
it's an essential milestone in your child's writing development. Finally, they will reach the fluent stage. Of course, they won't know that you know more about what to expect at each developmental stage of writing, you can use pre-writing
activities to support your child's growth in this area. Put simply, pre-writing activities include any activities the skills they will need for writing. They lay the foundation for future writing success by helping children: Develop hand-eye coordination Improve fine motor skills Become comfortable crossing the midline Develop
visual perceptual skills Understand that marks on a page can represent objects in the world Experiment with using tools and their fingers to make different kinds of marks Keep the below tips in mind to set your child masters the difficulty as your child masters.
each one. You don't want them to get frustrated by a game that's too hard. Next, choose activities that are interesting to your child. You want them to see writing as something fun, not a tedious chore. Then, focus on the positive. Don't point out all of the mistakes they make. Instead, celebrate their successes. This way, they start to see themselves as
a good writer. Finally, be patient. Learning to write takes time and practice! There are endless possibilities when it comes to pre-writing activities for preschoolers. Here are just a few of our favorites. Writing requires fine motor skills and finger dexterity. This game helps your child practice both. 12 small pom-poms A bowl Muffin tin with 12 holes A
clothespin Put the pom-poms into the bowl. Set the muffin tin and the clothespin nearby. Ask your child to use the clothespin to transfer the pom-poms to an empty hole in the muffin tin. You might need to demonstrate at first to ensure they figure out the right way to hold the clothespin without getting pinched. Have them continue moving pom-poms to an empty hole in the muffin tin. You might need to demonstrate at first to ensure they figure out the right way to hold the clothespin without getting pinched. Have them continue moving pom-poms into the bowl.
one at a time until they fill each hole. Then, ask them to put the fuzzy balls back into the bowl. Your child dip their finger into the paint A piece of paper Let your child dip their finger into the paint A piece of paper. They can make any kind of design they want, whether it's a picture
of a flower or just a bunch of dots in different colors. They can experiment with new ways of making dots, such as using the sides of their fingers or making big and small dots. They can also see what happens when they mix different colors of paint. When the painting is dry, ask your child to tell you about what they painted. This step helps them
realize that the marks they created have meaning and may even tell a story. Let your child practice making different lines and shapes with this fun activity. Shaving cream A large, flat surface (such as a cookie sheet) Spray a glob of shaving cream A large, flat surface (such as a cookie sheet) Spray a glob of shaving cream A large, flat surface (such as a cookie sheet) Spray a glob of shaving cream onto the surface you're using. Then, ask your child to spread it, creating a thin layer across the surface.
Next, show them how you can use a finger to create lines and shapes in the cream. They can practice making straight lines, curved lines, zigzags, circles, and more. Each type of line is essential for writing since they're used to form letters. When your child finishes drawing, ask them to use a finger to trace one line they made. Tracing helps them
better understand the concept of a line and is an important skill for learning to write letters in the future. Crossing the midline is an essential part of learning to write. Encourage your child to practice this range of motion by drawing rainbows. A large piece of paper Tape Two stickers A pencil Crayons or colored pencils in all the colors of the rainbow
Put one sticker near one edge of the paper. Then, use the pencil to draw a soft arch from the sticker to the other side of the paper. Finally, place the paper to a wall so your child can stand and draw. Show them how to use a crayon or
colored pencil to trace the arch and create a rainbow. Remind them to start at the left sticker and end at the right one. Once they finish their first line, have them try using a different color. After that, they can keep going until they've added arches in all the rainbow colors. Being able to copy simple shapes helps your child pay attention to details. Like
 many writing games, this one also works on fine motor skills. A shallow tray with sides on it Salt or sand Note: Make sure to keep an eye on your child during this activity so they don't try to eat the salt or sand. Pour a thin layer of salt or sand into the tray. (If you make it too thick, your child won't be able to see the lines they're creating). Using your
finger, draw a line straight down the middle of the sand to divide it in half. You now have two separate drawing spaces — one for your child and one for your child and one for your child to compare the two pictures and look for
differences. If they want, you can create a drawing for them to try to copy. However, you'll want to keep it super simple at first. Otherwise, they might get frustrated. Can your child use their fine motor skills to uncover the hidden object in the ball of play dough? Let's find out! A ball of play dough A small object, such as a button or a magnetic letter
Show your child how to flatten the ball of play dough into a pancake. Once it's flat, use your finger to make a small divot in the center of the play dough over it, sealing it all the way around. Now, give your child the ball of play dough and let them have at it! As they squish and
squiggle the dough, encourage them to figure out where the object is hidden and use their fingers to get it out. With a bit of play dough, cardboard White glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child create the letters in their name! A ball of play dough, cardboard White glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough, cardboard White glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough, cardboard, glue, and time, your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough, cardboard white glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough, cardboard white glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough, cardboard white glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush A plastic cup Help your child can create a fun sign with their name! A ball of play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play dough A piece of cardboard white glue An old paintbrush a play doug
play dough. You might need to create a model for each letter they can copy first. Once your child finishes the letters, set them in a safe place to dry. When everything is ready, dilute some white glue in the plastic cup with a bit of water. Then, ask your child to brush the glue over the letters to help keep them intact. When they're dry, add more glue to
the back of each letter and stick it onto the cardboard in order. Once all the letters are added, let the sign dry completely. The pre-writing activities above can help your child develop the skills they need for early writing success. Begin can help too. Our age- and stage-matched learning membership helps kids develop critical core learning abilities,
including pre-writing skills. Take our quiz to see which membership stage can help your family today, or check out our award-winning HOMER app, which includes fun, engaging games that teach writing, reading, math, and more. Pre-writing activities for preschoolers can help set up our youngest learners to become proficient writers as they
progress through school. Learning to write is a complex task! Children need adequate fine motor dexterity and strength, and they also need to know how letters look and how to form those shapes. The National Early Literacy Panel lists alphabet knowledge and the ability to write letters in isolation or in one's name as some of the top early predictors
of later literacy success, so helping kids' build these skills is crucial. The great news is that there are tons of playful and fun ways to do it. Here are 28 super-fun, easy-to-make activities that your preschoolers will love! It's important that kids learn to form letters consistently and with correct strokes, starting at the top. For any activity that asks kids
to trace letters, give them cues about where to start and the strokes to use that are consistent with the handwriting program your district uses. If you don't have an established handwriting program in place, check out Handwriting program your district uses. If you don't have an established handwriting program in place, check out Handwriting program in place, check out Handwriting program in place, check out Handwriting program your district uses.
bags is resealable zipper storage bags filled with a paste of flour, water, and food coloring. Zip the bags tight, then let kids use cotton swabs or their fingers to draw shapes, lines, and letters on sheets of bubble wrap with a Sharpie. Then have kids trace them as
they pop their way to letter recognition. Flatten out a medium-size ball of play dough like a pancake on a flat surface. Then use a sharp object to draw a letter on the flattened area. Make sure that the letter is large enough to be easily recognizable when filled with straws into 1-inch segments. Then let kids "trace" the letters with
the colorful straw segments. Students use dot markers to practice the mechanics of writing and get used to the angles and curves of letters. Download 12 free pages of pre-writing dot marker worksheets. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers Kids can't resist the sensory lure of play dough! For this activity, kids can roll small balls of dough into long transfer worksheets.
 snakes and form letters by bending and joining the snakes together. To help guide their work, provide letter cards. Blocks! Young kids can't get enough of building and creating with them. Put their creative energy to good use by having them build letters on letter cards. This activity builds fine motor skills that your young students need to begin
writing. Students use inexpensive pony beads (found at any craft store) to follow pre-printed lines. Another fun way to use pony beads: Draw a letter in play dough and let students trace the letter by lining up pony beads along the outline. One of the simplest pre-writing activities to put together for your preschoolers is a sand tray. Kids can use their by lining up pony beads along the outline.
fingers or an unsharpened pencil to practice writing. As an alternative to sand, you can fill your tray with salt, flour, cornmeal, or rice. For this easy-to-prepare activity, simply fill a plastic squeeze bottle with salt or sugar and let students trace letters on cards by squeezing the bottle. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers This is a fun activity to help kids
work on their fine motor skills and get the hang of the all-important pencil grip. Show kids how to properly hold the swab like a pencil, then dip the swab in the paint and practice writing on paper. Check back and make adjustments to their grip. Pre-writing lines are important building blocks for any preschooler to master before learning letter
formations. Download this glitter glue pre-writing line practice for preschoolers activity. This resource is so simple to make, and kids love it! Simply tape colored tissue paper in a rainbow pattern to the bottom of a clear plastic tray. Fill it with sand, and as the kids trace lines and letters, the colors below are revealed. For extra fun, place the tray on
 top of a light table to add a glowing dimension to the rainbow. This is a fun center activity for learning letters. Provide students with a roll of colored masking tape and a clear surface, like a mirror, window, or table. Then have them tear off sections of tape to form letters on a magnet board with a gry-erase marker and let your little ones
trace them with magnets. Or make letters with masking tape and draw a dotted line down the middle, creating a "road." Then students can "drive" car magnets along the letter road. Grasping a string between tiny fingers and threading the end through the holes in a lacing card is great fine motor practice for preschoolers. It also begins to build
muscle memory for holding a pencil properly. Create your own lacing cards with card stock and a hole punch. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers This classic activity is a great starting place for pre-writers. All you need is a tray and a can of shaving cream. Then, students can use a stick, a swab, or their finger as they write letters, shapes, or words.
Preschoolers will have so much fun creating patterns, swirls, squiggles, and zigzags with colorful buttons. And they'll be building fine motor skills while they're at it! Preschoolers need to use a pinching motion, which builds hand strength, to peel sticker dots off the page. Then, they use hand-eye coordination to place each sticker along a drawn line.
This activity would be perfect for a writing or free-time station. Some kids don't like to get their fingers this messy, but others adore it! For this activity, you will need poster paper and a palette of washable ink. Draw letters, shapes, and lines on a clean piece of paper. Then, show kids how to dip their pointer finger onto the ink pad and follow the lines
dot by dot. Using a clothespin requires grip strength. Any activity that involves clipping clothespins will help kids build the fine motor skills required for writing. Sarah Cason via We Are Teachers Cutting and snipping activities with scissors are excellent ways for children to practice fine motor skills and control. Give your students lots of opportunities
to practice their cutting skills with paper, string, card stock, and even snakes of Play-Doh! Scrunching paper into a ball is great for building hand strength. Let your preschoolers use computer paper, newspaper, tissue paper into a ball is great for building hand strength. Let your preschoolers use computer paper, newspaper, tissue paper, or wrapping paper to create a tight ball. Then play a game of paper ball tag! As young learners grasp a paintbrush and apply
paint onto melting ice, they're building fine motor skills. This helps develop hand-eye coordination and strengthens the muscles in their hands and fingers. Amazon Preschoolers enjoy tactile fun and learning while building small motor skills with these dough stampers. Sturdy alphabet stamps can be pushed into soft play dough or clay. Includes all 26
letters. Buy it: Dough Stampers Take your preschoolers outside and let them loose on the sidewalk with a cup of water and a paintbrush. Let them draw squiggles, lines, letters, etc. All of these options reinforce writing skills. Alternatively, let students use colored chalk. Pipe cleaners can be used for a variety of pre-writing activities to help
preschoolers develop their finger muscles and fine motor skills. Make shapes, add beads, curl them around pencils, and more! Scribbling does wonders for teaching preschoolers how to apply the right amount of pressure to, and control the movement of, crayons and pencils in order to make them work. And not only that, it's fun! Use poster paper or
cardboard boxes to make it a group project. Learning to write with a pencil is important, but for learning letters, fingers can work just as well. Prepare letter cards and demonstrate where to begin. The more students practice, the greater the muscle memory. In the early years of a child's life, every scribble, doodle, and line drawn holds profound
significance. It's the foundation of pre-writing skills, the precursor to the beautiful art of writing. We have compiled a list of Pre-Writing Activities for Preschoolers that can be easily done at home or in the classroom. Source: theottoolbox.com Playing with playdough is a fantastic pre-writing activity for preschoolers. It provides a sensory experience
that helps children develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Children can roll, press, and mold the play dough into different shapes and sizes, helping them strengthen their fingers and hands. They can also use cookie cutters, plastic knives, and other tools to create different designs, which can help with their creativity and
imagination. Related: Free Preschool Worksheets Age 3 - 5 (PDF) Source: kidsactivities4fun.in Tracing shapes is another excellent pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. You can create different shapes on paper or cardboard and ask your child to trace them using a pencil or crayon. This
activity helps children learn how to control their writing tools and follow a line, which is essential for writing letters and numbers. Related: 25 Fun Morning Meeting Activities for Kindergarten Source: raisingchildren.net.au Finger painting is a fun and messy pre-writing activity that helps children develop their fine motor skills and creativity. You can
provide your child with different colors of paint and ask them to make different shapes and designs on paper. Children can use their fingers to create different textures and patterns, which helps them develop their tactile senses. This activity is also a great way to introduce your child to colors and mix them to create new ones. Source:
empoweredparents.co Puzzles are a great way to help preschoolers develop their problem-solving skills, hand-eye coordination, and fine motor skills. You can start with simple puzzles with large pieces and gradually increase the difficulty level. Puzzles help children learn how to match and sort different shapes and sizes, which is important for writing
letters and numbers. Source: empowered parents, co Beading is a fun and engaging pre-writing activity that helps children develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. You can provide your child with different colored beads and ask them to string them onto a shoelace or string. This activity helps children learn how to manipulate small
objects and strengthens their hand muscles. It also helps with their color recognition and sorting skills. Related: 20 Fun and Exciting Circle Time Games for Preschoolers Source: dayswithgrey.com Playing with stickers is a fun and simple pre-writing activity that helps children develop their hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and creativity. You
can provide your child with different types of stickers and ask them to stick them onto paper or a cardboard surface. Children can make different designs and fine motor skills. Source: walmart.com Drawing on a Magna Doodle is a great pre-writing activity that helps
preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Magna Doodle is a magnetic drawing board that comes with a magnetic stylus that children learn how to control their writing tools and follow a line, which is essential for writing letters and numbers.
Source: busytoddler.com Sensory bins are a great pre-writing activity that provides children with a sensory bin by filling a container with different materials such as sand, rice, or beans, and providing your child with different tools such as scoops and shovels.
This activity helps children develop their tactile senses and hand-eye coordination. Source: empowered parents, co Cutting with scissors is a great pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and designs on
paper. This activity helps children learn how to control their scissors and develop their hand muscles. Source: activebabiessmartkids.com.au Drawing on a chalkboard is a fun pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. You can provide your child with chalk and ask them to draw different
shapes and designs on a chalkboard. This activity helps children learn how to control their writing tools and follow a line, which is essential for writing letters and numbers. Source: firstcry.com Threading beads is a great pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and sorting skills. You can
provide your child with beads of different colors and shapes and ask them to string or pipe cleaner. This activity helps children learn how to manipulate small objects and strengthens their hand muscles. Source: parentcircle.com Playing with clay is a fun and creative pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine
motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Children can mold clay into different tools such as plastic knives and designs, which helps them strengthen their fingers and hands. They can also use different tools such as plastic knives and cookie cutters to create different designs. Source: teaching2and3yearolds.com Drawing on a whiteboard is a great pre-writing activity that
helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. You can provide your child with dry-erase markers and ask them to draw different shapes and designs on a whiteboard. This activity helps children learn how to control their writing tools and follow a line, which is essential for writing letters and numbers. Source:
theottoolbox.com Playing with lacing cards is a great pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. You can provide your child with lacing cards that have different shapes and designs and ask them to thread a shoelace or string through the holes. This activity helps children learn how to
manipulate small objects and strengthens their hand muscles. Source: aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au Rolling play dough is a simple and effective pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Children can roll play dough into different shapes and sizes, which helps them strengthen their fingers
and hands. This activity also helps children with their spatial awareness and helps them understand the concept of size and shapes on Tracing shapes is a great pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. You can provide your child with different shapes on
paper, such as circles, squares, and triangles, and ask them to trace them with a pencil or marker. This activity helps children learn how to control their writing letters and numbers. Source: educationalinsights.com Playing with play foam is a fun and engaging pre-writing activity that helps
preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Children can mold play foam into different ways. Source: empoweredparents.co
Finger painting is a fun and creative pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Children can use their fingers to create different designs and patterns, which helps them develop their fine motor skills. This activity also helps children with their sensory development, as they can feel
the texture of the paint on their fingers. Source: yourtherapysource.com Building with blocks is a great pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their spatial awareness and fine motor skills. Children can use different types of blocks, such as wooden blocks or legos, to create different structures and designs. This activity also helps children
with their problem-solving skills, as they have to figure out how to build different designs. Source: blog.sensoryedge.com Playing with bead mazes is a great pre-writing activity that helps preschoolers develop their hand-eye coordination and problem-solving skills. You can provide your child with a bead maze toy and ask them to move the beads
through different pathways. This activity helps children learn how to manipulate small objects and strengthen their hand muscles, which is important for writing.
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