

I'm not a robot



























post may contain affiliate links. Please read our disclosure policy. Adult supervision is required for all activities found on HappyToddlerPlaytime.com. Create fun and engaging pre-writing activities for preschoolers to practice their hand writing skills using items you already have at home. All these ideas are 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 older than 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 skill! Baby Food Writing Tray by Happy Toddler Playtime DIRT Play Dough + Rocks Writing Tray by Frugal Fun 4 Boys Rainbow Writing Salt Tray by NurturStor Paint Writing Tray by Happy Toddler Playtime Pre-Writing Activities with Squishy Bag by Learning 4 Kids Playground Learning: Prewriting for Toddlers by Kids Activities Blog Shaving Cream Sight Word Game by Happy Toddler Playtime Writing Practice Using 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 Simple Writing Tray by The OT Toolbox Coloured Salt Writing Tray for Reluctant Writers by Powerful Mothering Play Dough Writing Tray by Fantastic Fun and Learning Christmas Tree Writing Tray by Happy Toddler Playtime Calming Lavender Pre-writing Tray by And Next Comes I, Shaving Cream "Magna Doodle" Activity by Happy Hoologans Gitter Paper by The OT Toolbox Handwriting Program for Preschoolers by The OT Toolbox

Bottle Salt Writing by Playdough to Plato Stickier Lineup by Busy Toddler Fridge Magnet Line Up by Happy Toddler Playtime Prewriting: A Simple Preschool Game by Days with Grey Popsicle Sticks by Happy Toddler Playtime Tracing Letters with Water by The Little House of Mine Tape Letters by And Next Comes I, Fingerprints Letters by Happy Toddler Playtime Push Pin Maze Pre-Writing Activity by Planning Playtime Erasing Letters with Q-tip by Gift of Curiosity Rainbow Letter Fine Motor Work Station with Buttons by Learning 4 Kids Alphabet Lego by Wild Flower Ramblings Bring the Bears Home by Days with Grey Animal Parade by Busy Toddler Snow 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 by No Time For Flashcards Fun Ways to Work on Handwriting Skills by In the Playroom Practice Pre-writing with Movement by Days with Grey Yarn Shape and Letter Tracing by Rainy Day Mum Developing Pre-Writing Skills on a Whiteboard by Teaching 2 and 3 Year Olds Montessori Pre-Writing Activities by Mama's Happy Hive Pumpkin Pre-writing 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, Hand-Eye Coordination, Fine Motor Skills, Emotional 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 young 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 handwriting programs as important, but also check out Handwriting 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 food coloring. Zip the bags tight, then let kids use cotton swabs or their fingers to draw shapes, lines, 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. 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 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, simply fill a plastic squeeze bottle with salt or sugar and let students 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. 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 butters. 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 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, 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 stamper. 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! 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! 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. 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