

What the Children Might Show You:

Many different ways of imitating adult writing, with increasing fine motor control and closer approximations to letter-like shapes or cursive writing

First Steps Toward the Standard

Makes random marks or scribbles for a variety of purposes

Making Progress Toward the Standard

Identifies marks or scribbles as writing; shows more control of the writing tool

Accomplishing the Standard

Purposefully makes marks and scribbles for writing purposes, with increasing control of the writing tool evident in the formation of letter-like shapes, perhaps even some letters, and forms of pretend cursive writing

Curriculum and Activities That You Can Plan and Implement for Each Child's Progress Level

- Model for the children how many ways you use writing every day.
 - Provide a variety of writing tools (markers, crayons, chalk, pens, pencils) and papers for children to experiment with writing.
 - Be sure to accept their scribbles and shapes as the writing that's just right for their age.
- Add writing tools and materials in the dramatic play area to give children opportunities to imitate writing grocery lists, recipes, letters, and phone messages as well as paying bills.
 - Be sure to accept their scribbles and shapes as the writing that's just right for their age.
- Set up a Writing Center in the classroom with many types of writing tools and papers. Add name cards, word lists, picture dictionaries, and alphabet posters for copying.
 - As children begin to be capable of writing recognizable letters, encourage them to do so. But also accept their scribbles and shapes.

Early Learning Standard

“Uses pretend writing during play activities (e.g., scribbles lines and shapes)”

—California Desired Results for 3 Years through Prekindergarten

Other states with a similar standard:

CO, CT, DC, GA, IL, IA, LA, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, NY, OK, RI, TX, UT

Common Practices in an Early Childhood Classroom Where This Standard May Be Addressed

Providing many opportunities for children to play with writing tools and materials throughout the day

Young children love to imitate the adults in their lives. And adults write for many purposes in everyday life. Pretend writing is a way for children to experiment with the writing process before they feel confident in making recognizable letters and words. Even as they scribble, they are developing fine motor skills and their own awareness of the many purposes and reasons for writing in daily life.

Access state standards at www.ccsso.org/ECEAstandards. For information correlating state standards, go to www.nieer.org/standards/statelist.php.