

Drawing and writing at home.

Children enjoy 'play writing'. They need 'role models' so talk to them about your writing - why are you doing it, what is it for, where do you start?

Let them write:

- Their shopping lists
- Telephone messages
- Messages on notice boards
- Appointments
- Invitations
- Tags on presents
- Letters to imaginary friends
- Names on birthday and Christmas cards

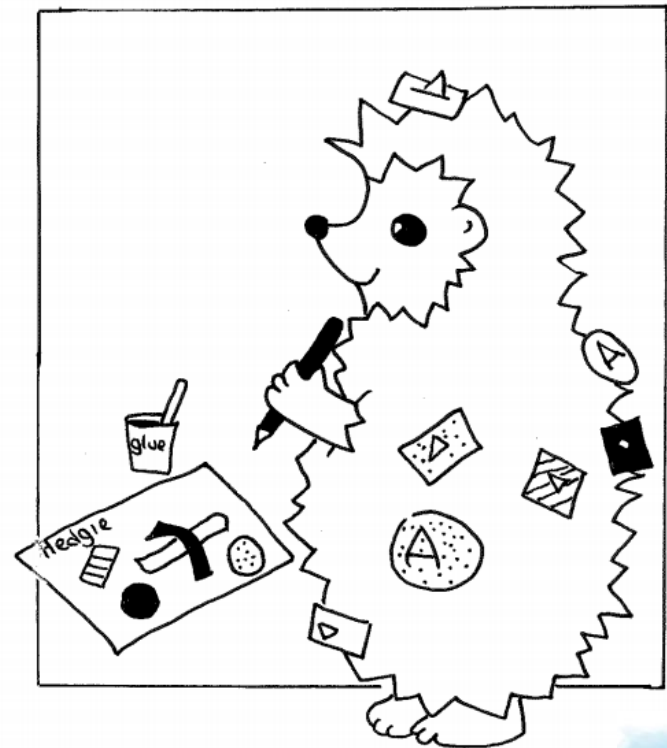
Recycle old envelopes and paper (any paper) for children to use for their 'letters'.

Use the lower case alphabet e.g. a b c d e f.

It's best not to teach your child to write their name in capitals. We use capitals at the beginning of names e.g. Jack, Megan.



Making Marks: Drawing and Writing



We give children the opportunity to draw because:-

- It is an important form of self-expression.
- It is fun and there is a sense of achievement.
- It gives them the opportunity to go through the recognised stages of scribbling, drawing lines, circles and eventually a simple person.
- It helps them learn to hold a pencil crayon. In the early stages they may hold the pencil with their fist and will often use either hand. This may continue until around 3 - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.
- These scribbles and marks develop into 'letters' and 'numbers' - their own writing.

Children begin their journey towards writing by making marks, the first step being making circular marks.

The marks they make slowly begin to have more meaning for them, at first being a blend of writing and drawing.

Most begin to understand the difference between drawing and writing sometime after their third birthday.

They may act out 'writing' situations, especially if they have seen adults writing purposefully.