

**HealthPoint**

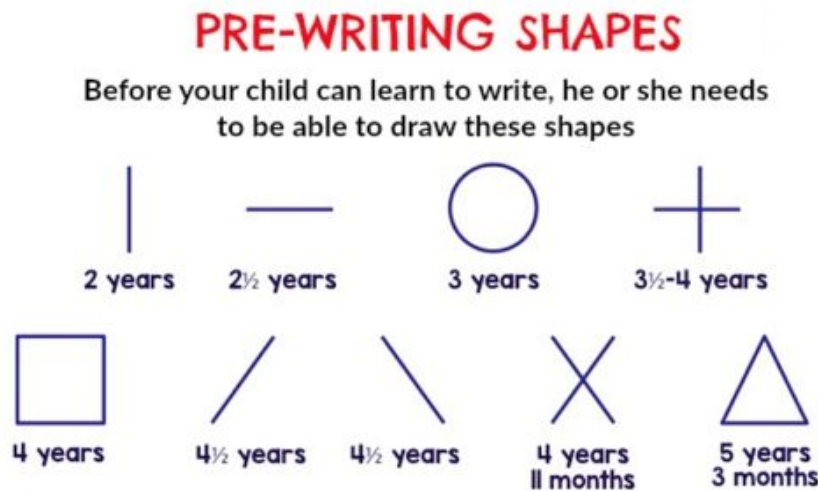
Rehabilitation Services • Health and Wellness

3727 Friendsville Road • Wooster, OH 44691

330.202.3300 • FAX: 330.202.3304 • [www.woosterhospital.org](http://www.woosterhospital.org)

**Pre-writing Skills:**

Pre-writing skills are an important part of your child's development as they are the stepping stones to the handwriting skills your child will need to write legible letters. Pre-writing skills are necessary to master in the early years for many important reasons. Children need to master pre-writing skills before they can have legible and efficient handwriting. Pre-writing shapes include formation of vertical lines, horizontal lines, diagonal lines, circles, cross patterns, X patterns, squares and triangle shapes. Direction of formation of each line is important as well as proper formation will carry over into formation of letters in handwriting tasks. Each shape/line is formed with a top to down and left to right formation. Listed in the diagram below are the typical age ranges for abilities to form each shape.



**Websites/applications for pre-writing activities:**

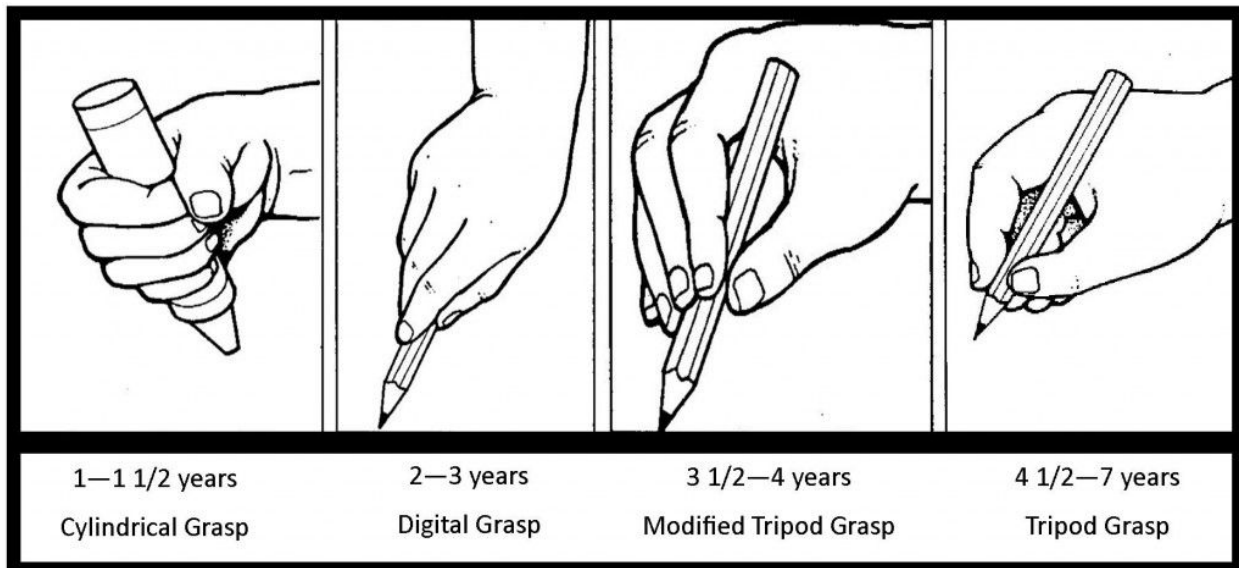
- <https://www.toolstogrowot.com/>
- Ready to print application
- Handwriting without tears application
- <https://thekindergartenconnection.com/free-prewriting-worksheets/>
- [https://www.kidzone.ws/prek\\_wrksht/dynamic.htm](https://www.kidzone.ws/prek_wrksht/dynamic.htm)
- <https://www.allkidsnetwork.com/writing/pre-writing/>

### Fun/play activities to engage your child in working on pre-writing skills:

- Use shaving cream to make lines, circles, shapes, letters or a picture
- Put paint in a ziplock baggie, seal it and tape it, and use your finger to make lines, circles, shapes, letters or a picture
- Use chalk to draw outside on sidewalk
- Use WET, DRY, TRY method- Take a dry erase board, draw a line, erase with a damp towel, and then try to draw again for increased motor planning
- Start with vertical strokes (up/down), progress to horizontal lines (left to right), circle, cross, left/right diagonals, "x", triangle and square
- Connect the dot activities
- Roll a dice game to draw a house
- Use Wikki Stix, pipe cleaners or toothpicks to practice forming simple shapes and letters
- Sticker play- peel and place stickers on lines, shapes, or letters
- Line up beads or pieces of cereal one a time on lines, shapes or letters
- Roll playdough into small straight pieces to practice making lines, shapes or letters

### Proper grasping techniques to writing tools:

Achieving a proper grasp on writing tools can improve your child's control and legibility with formation of pre-writing shapes/lines. Listed below is a reference to desired age appropriate grasping strategies we work towards achieving when completing pre-writing activities.



<http://kidlink.net.au/classroom-tips-series-pencil-grasp/>