



If you know the emergent writing goals, the stages, and different writing types, you can help children express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

1 Our Emergent Writing Goal

Regardless of developmental stage, children can use writing to communicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

You can help children achieve this goal by:

- Helping them learn Tier 2 vocabulary
- Teaching children writing rules, like using letters of the alphabet and following concepts of print
- Remembering that children may move back and forth through the stages

2 Emergent Writing Stages

In Stage 1: Scribbling, children:

- Understand that writing and drawing are different.
- Know that print carries a message.
- Assign messages to their scribbles.
- Point at their writing and read it.

In Stage 2: Left-to-Right Scribbling, children:

- Become aware of how text should be laid out.
- May not understand that the number of written words should be the same as spoken words.

In Stage 3: Writing Letter-Like Forms, children:

- Write shapes that look similar to letters.
- Create their own symbols with lines, circles, and curves.

In Stage 4: Writing Actual Letters, children:

- Use real letters, usually starting with letters in their name.
- Often create strings of letters and read them.

In Stage 5: Letters for Prominent Phonemes, children:

- Spell words based on the letter sounds they know, often creating their own spelling.
- May use one letter to represent an entire syllable.



3 Writing Types

We introduce emergent writers to six main writing types:

- Writing names
- Labeling
- Listing
- Corresponding with others
- Expressing opinions and preferences
- Expository writing