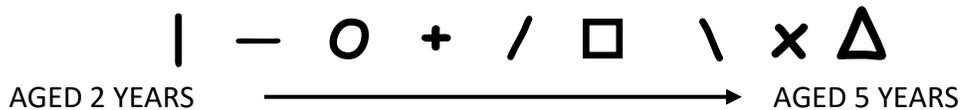


FROM DRAWING TO PRINTING

At about 2-years-old, a child will start to purposefully draw the first basic strokes – a vertical and horizontal line. As they grow and develop their skills they continue to learn to draw strokes/shapes in the order shown below:



At about 4 years of age your child will be interested in learning the first letter of his name.

When practicing drawing with your child it is important to keep it fun so your child remains interested and motivated. Encourage your child to “start at the top...now go down”. In this way they will learn the correct sequence of movements for printing. Practicing these strokes does not have to involve a pen and paper. Have fun with your child using your index finger and drawing the strokes in the air, in the sand or in the snow. That way your child will learn the “feel” of the shape.

Other ideas include:

- Shaving cream or a wet sponge on the wall during bath time
- Finger painting
- Using fingers in flour on a cookie sheet
- Chalk outside on the driveway/sidewalk or drawing in sand
- Practice drawing lines by cutting out pictures of animals from magazines and drawing bars over top of them to make a zoo
- Practice crosses by having your child mark off days on a calendar
- Mazes and dot to dots
- Tracing patterns, shapes or letters
- Draw shapes or lines on your child’s back and have them copy them on paper. Have your child do the same to you.

If you are using crayons/markers on paper, try to keep writing utensils short. Broken crayons are best! A shorter writing utensil encourages a child to use a proper pencil grasp.

