

Kindergarten Information

Writing

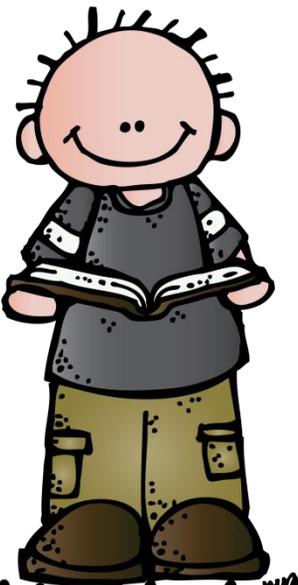
The range of writing in Kindergarten spans from making basic lines, curves, and squiggles to writing a few well-structured sentences by year's end. We do not expect every word to be spelled correctly. Instead, we accept "kid writing." Kid writing is a mixture of known sight words, and easily spelled simple words, along with phonetically spelled words.

As the year goes on, children should incorporate spaces between words, basic punctuation (. ! ?) , and initial capitalization.

A sample of "kid writing" is as follows:

**I wt to the prte with my frend.
We had spgete and metbalz.
Then we had brthdy cake.**

(I went to the party with my friend. We had spaghetti and meatballs. Then we had birthday cake.)



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Ways to help your child advance to the next level:

1. **Learn all of the Letter Sounds**—without sound knowledge, your child does not have the tools s/he needs to stretch out the sounds in words. This is, obviously, the first step. Once your child knows all 26 basic sounds, expand to diagraphs (*ch, sh, th, wh*) and blends (*st, bl, sp, etc...*).
2. Later on , you will advance to long vowel rules (*bake, say, mail*) and r-controlled vowels (*corn, barn, letter*).
3. **S-T-R-E-T-C-H** out the Sounds in Words—In a very exaggerated fashion, slowly say the word that you want to write. As you do this over and over, write down the sounds you hear in the word. Hearing you do this first, and writing down what you hear (not perfectly) will give your child the confidence to begin trying it him/herself.
4. **Use Sight Words**—As we learn more and more sight words, your child can build more advanced sentences with them. Model this for your child.

