



Developmental Stages of Writing



Pre-Literate	
Stage Description	Sample
Scribble Stage - starting point any place on page, resembles drawing large circular strokes and random marks that do not resemble print or communicate a message	
Symbolic Stage - starting point any place on page, pictures or random strokes/marks with an intended message	"I am happy."
Directional Scribble - scribble left to right direction, linear, intended as writing that communicates a meaningful message/idea	"I am playing."
Symbolic/Mock Letters - letter-like formations, may resemble letters but it isn't intentional, interspersed w/ numbers, spacing rarely present	T 7 O F E O W
Emergent	
Strings of Letters - long strings of various letters in random order, may go left to right, uses letter sequence perhaps from name, usually uses capital letters, may write same letters in many ways.	T R H O Z F T X
Groups of letters -groupings of letters with spaces in between to resemble words	M I Z O T C A
Labeling pictures - matching beginning sounds with the letter to label a picture	D F
Environmental Print - copies letters/words from environmental/classroom print, reversals common, uses a variety of resources to facilitate writing	C L O C K M O M
Transitional	
Letter/Word Representation -uses first letter sound of word to represent entire word, uses letter sound relationship.	I W H (I went home.)
First/Last Letter Representation - word represented by first and last letter sound	C T (cat)
Medial Letter Sounds - words spelled phonetically using BME sounds, attempts medial vowels, uses some known words, more conventionally spelled words, one letter may represent one syllable, attempts to use word spacing, writing is readable	M I C A T I S B R N (My cat is brown.)
Fluent	
Beginning Phrase Writing - using all of the above skills to construct phrases that convey a message connected to their illustration	I Pla wif my dog
Sentence Writing - Construction of words into sentence formation, maybe multiple sentences, writing is readable, may use punctuation, known words spelled correctly, topic focused, BME with detail.	I play with my frind. We like to jump rop!
Six Traits of Writing - Students use Six Traits of Writing (Conventions, Organization, Voice, Meas, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency)	