

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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SCRIBBLING IS IMPORTANT!

The more children write, the more they learn about print. Just as children crawl before they walk, children scribble before they print.



Early writing is not about learning to properly form letters. It is about practice. Make writing fun.

Praise your child generously, just as you did when they were learning to talk.

A final note- this process takes a **L O N G** time.

Here is how writing develops:

1. Children's first marks will look like scribbles.
2. Soon their marks will be replaced by letter-like marks.
3. Then letters appear.

Your child's first writing will look like scribbles.

If you would like to be on the Drake University Head Start Policy Council, talk to your Family Engagement Specialist.

POLICY COUNCIL

Parents share in the decisions made in Head Start. A group that helps to make decisions is the Policy Council.



- ⇒ You could serve on this group.
- ⇒ The group meets the second Tuesday of the month.
- ⇒ Dinner is provided.

- ⇒ Child care and mileage are paid.
- ⇒ Talk to your Family Engagement Specialist if you would

like more information about the Policy Council.

4 Tips for Raising A Reader:

There is a lending library at every Head Start Program. Check out the books so you can surround your child with print.

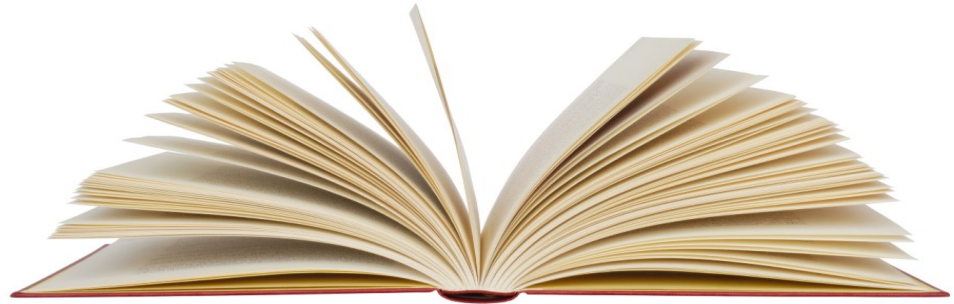
If you are a home-based parent, ask your Specialist or Teacher how you can get books in your home.

Drop small toys through a paper-towel tube. If the toy drops through, it may be a choking hazard and could be dangerous to small children.

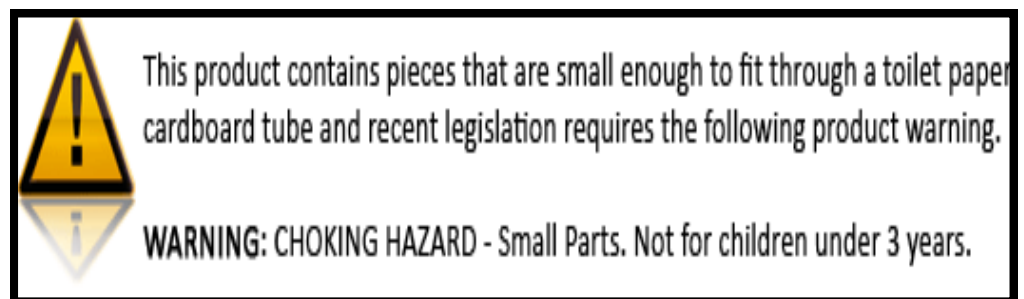


Toothbrushes should not touch each other when they are not in use.

- Surround them with print
- Read to them regularly
- Let them see you reading
- Engage them in conversation



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS LABEL?



HOW TO STORE TOOTHBRUSHES?

- ⇒ Write your child's name on their toothbrush with a permanent marker.
- ⇒ Do not cover toothbrushes.
- ⇒ Toothbrushes should be rinsed in water after brushing.
- ⇒ Let them air dry between uses.
- ⇒ They should be stored upright.
- ⇒ Do not let toothbrushes touch each other when they are drying.

ARRIVING ON TIME=SUCCESS

When a child arrives late, it causes a distraction in the classroom.

It can also be embarrassing for children to be late and have everyone's attention on them.



Children who arrive late miss out on important group time.

Make sure your child arrives on time.

MAKING CHOICES

Children love to make choices. By making small choices when they can, it is often easier for them to go along when there is no choice.



There are many ways that children can help to make decisions. Parents can provide two choices and have their child pick one. Examples might be:

Would you like:

- ⇒ The red shirt or the blue shirt to wear
- ⇒ Orange juice or apple juice to drink
- ⇒ Strawberry yogurt or vanilla yogurt to eat

- ⇒ This book or that book to read
- ⇒ Make sure the choices are available and appropriate.



Which book would you like to read?

CHILDREN AND ATTENTION

All children need attention. If they don't get attention being good, they may act out. Children do what parents notice. If you notice your children being good, they are more likely to be good.



they will likely continue.

Instead, try giving specific, positive attention to the behavior you want to see. This will teach your child what you want him to do, as well as increasing the likelihood of that behavior happening again.

If you notice them misbehaving

Catch your children being good and tell them what you like!

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**Help Your Child Succeed in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.