

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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HOW CHILDREN LEARN TO WRITE!

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.

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.

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



COVID-19 GUIDELINES

- **Only one adult may come to the door when dropping off and picking up your child.**
- **Staff will take your child's temperature daily and assess your child's health before the adult dropping off your child leaves.**

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING QUESTIONS

During COVID-19, there are daily health screening questions that we are required to ask each day. The questions are as follows:

1. Do you or anyone in your household have any common symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, shortness of breath or a body temperature of 100.4° (38.0°C)
2. Have you given your child or anyone in your household
3. Since your child last came to school has anyone in your home been diagnosed with COVID-19?
4. Since your child last came to school has your child or anyone in your home been exposed to someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19?

taken any fever reducing medication in the last 72 hours for fever?

READING TO CHILDREN

When you read to your kids before bedtime, the bonding established creates a comforting feeling that promotes better sleep. And if you read their favorite stories, your children will go to sleep happy.



Bedtime	
	pajamas
	brush teeth
	go potty
	read
	lights out

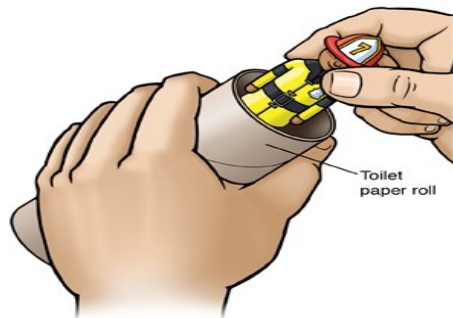
www.being-visual.com

Choosing regular times to read especially before naps and bedtime helps kids learn to sit with a book and relax. But you can read anytime your child seems in the mood. If your toddler will let you, hold him or her in your lap when you read.

IS IT A CHOKING HAZARD?

The statistics are frightening about children and choking.

Always check if you are not sure if it is a choking hazard.



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

Toys are a big source of choking hazards. Make sure smaller children can't get a hold of toys with small parts intended for older kids. Follow the age recommendations on toy packages.

PARENTS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER

Parents are their child's first and most important teacher.

When teachers and families work together, children's learning is supported. Head Start encourages parent involvement and works best when teachers and parents work together.



You are your child's first and most important teacher. While you are in Head Start, you and your child will work together to learn new things. A little time is all you need. We will offer many ideas. We even have a way to keep track of what your child is learning.

YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM

Your child's classroom is set up for exploration and learning. Children will have many opportunities to make choices, experiment, and interact with others.

- Materials are on low shelves, in containers so children can get them out and put them away.
- Shelves are neat and uncluttered so materials are easy to see, select, and put back.
- Picture and word labels are on containers and shelves so children

know where materials belong and learn to use print.

- There are interest areas: blocks, dramatic play, toys and games, art, discovery, library, sand and water, music and movement, cooking, and different outdoor play spaces.

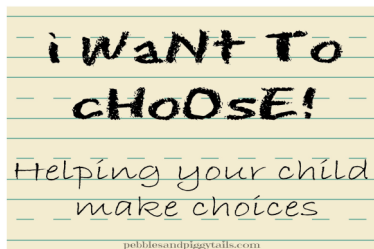
In Head Start, families and teachers partner for a successful school year for each child. Teachers can help parents understand how children learn through play, and the ways families can support children's learning at home.



What interest area is the picture above?

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. Making choices give children a sense of power.



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

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:

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



Which book would you like to read?

MATCHING NUMBER GAME

Try this simple number matching activity for kids using cupcake liners and paper.

You will need:

- Paper
- Pen
- Cupcake liners

1. Use the cupcake liners to trace

as many circles as you would like.

2. Write the numbers on the bottom of the liner and in the middle of the circles you have drawn.
3. Let your child match the liner to the circle on the paper.



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www.drakeheadstart.org



HEAD START:
Educating Kids,
Empowering Families,
Changing Communities

THIS IS AVAILABE FOR YOU!

**For information
about job
opportunities at
Drake University
Head Start
go to
www.drake.edu/hr/**

The Student Assistance Program is available to help you and your family find solutions to your concerns.

The program is available for in-person appointments and telephone consultation for Drake University Head Start and Early Head Start families. It's free!

You will receive three in-person sessions and 24/7 telephone assistance at no cost to you. Services are **confidential**. No one will be given information about your visit without your permission.



To schedule an appointment, call -
515-244-6090

For Telephone Assistance-
1-800-327-4692

Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When you call the numbers above, you can choose to talk to a counselor by phone or schedule a tele appointment with a counselor. Tell them you have a child in Drake University Head Start.