

# Stages of Children's Writing

Educators now realize that children progress through six different stages of writing.

## Drawing

Children draw and "read" their drawings as a form of communication. They may draw an unrecognizable form and say, "I played in the home center today with my friends." Or they may draw a treelike form and say, "This says remember to take me to the park."

## Scribbling

Young children believe they are writing when they scribble and often "read" what they have just scribbled. Children often will move the pencil like adults, making their scribbles from left to right.

## Invented Letters

Many young children make up their own letters. A circle with a line drawn down from the bottom (resembling a lollipop) is a common invented letter. Again, children believe they are writing.

## Random Letters

As children become more aware of the alphabet, they often write the letters in long strings, usually at random.

## Invented Spelling

Invented spelling takes many forms but is related to the sounds the child hears in each word. At the beginning of this stage, children may write one letter to represent one word. Later, words are represented by two letters, the initial and ending letters sounds. As the child's writing continues to mature, most sounds are represented in their invented spelling.

## Common Spelling

The child begins writing more and more words spelled as adults spell.

# Kindergarten Writing

---



## Step 1




- I make a picture.
- I write my name.
- I tell my message to my teacher.




## Step 2

- I make a picture that matches my words. I like my cat. 
- My message has some letters in it. A ~ ~ ~ tch ~ ~ ~ wh ~ ~
- I use some words from the word wall.
- I write across the page the way I read a book. 

## Step 3

- My message has sounds I hear and other letters. 
- I use most of the words from the word wall. (the, it, a, I, is, etc.)
- I use punctuation at the end of my message. (The cat ran up the tree.)
- I sometimes use spaces between my words.
- I read my message to others.

## Step 4

- My message has the sounds I hear all the way through the words. → 
- I tell more about a topic in my message.
- I use spaces consistently in my message.
- I use punctuation at the end and sometimes in the middle of my message.  
(I have a dog. His name is Scooter. He is brown and white.)