



## Paper, Pencils, and Props

Dear Families,

Did you know that every time your child scribbles, he or she is setting the stage for the future writing? Those little squiggles and lines will turn into letters, words, and stories one day! Here are some great tools that will give your child the opportunity to explore and develop small motor skills.

1. Keep pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, notepads, paper, spiral notebooks, and so on in a basket or old briefcase. The basket or briefcase makes the items portable. Encourage your child to play with the materials inside or outside.
2. Provide play-dough, tape, watercolors, a hole punch, safety scissors, washable markers, construction paper, stickers, and other art media. You might want to share these materials in a plastic tub to make them convenient to get out and clean up.
3. Value your child's work by framing it or hanging it on the refrigerator.
4. Children enjoy drawing the chalk on the sidewalk. Or you could place a chalkboard in your garage or basement.
5. Save forms from magazines or junk mail for children to write on.
6. A magic slate, dry-erase board, seasonal pencil, note cards, and other props will engage your child in writing.

**Happy writing!**