

Theme: Making a Mark

The Learning Triangle is TV that teaches + storybooks + activities—all related to one idea or skill. Parents and educators use the Learning Triangle to help children learn by encouraging them to interact with people and objects around them. Use the information below to create a Learning Triangle to encourage writing, drawing, and creating.

TV that teaches

Between the Lions: #105—Shooting Stars

Caillou: #106—Caillou Creates

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood: #1643—Art

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood: #1645—Art

Between the Lions: #124—The Old Man

Storybooks

Arthur Writes a Story by Marc Brown

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

How is a Crayon Made by Oz Charles

A Letter To Amy by Ezra Jack Keats



Activities

1. **Draw It!:** Drawing helps children develop the skills they will need for writing. It also encourages creativity and provides a healthy outlet for emotions. Try drawing with your child. Make it a part of your everyday routine.
2. **Build Those Muscles:** Writing requires a great deal of hand-eye coordination. You can build coordination and motor skills by rolling and pinching play dough, tearing paper into small pieces to use for an art project, painting (with fingers or a paintbrush), stringing beads, or cutting with children's scissors.
3. **Start With Names:** Kids often learn to write before they can read. Encourage early writing skills by showing your child how to write her name or the names of friends and family.
4. **Let Them See You Do It:** Let your child see you writing whenever you can. Show her when you write checks or shopping lists. Pretty soon she will start scribbling "lists" of her own.
5. **Visit the *Between the Lions* website** for ideas to encourage writing and things to print. You can find the website at pbskids.org. Just click on "*Between the Lions*." Then go to "Parents & Teachers" or "Literacy Tips." This site includes activities to encourage reading as well as writing.

WILL has many resources that support the education of young children. For more information contact our educational outreach coordinator at **217-333-1070** or e-mail delaney1@will.uiuc.edu.

