Guide for Observing and Individualizing

3–5 Years

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<th>Language/Literacy: Writing</th>
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<td>WHEN INTRODUCED AND EMPHASIZED: Weeks 7–10 and Day 4 of the weeks in which individual letters are introduced</td>
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<td>BEHAVIORS TO OBSERVE</td>
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<td>• Beginning Skills in Forming Letters and Words</td>
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**OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES**

In what ways does the child show beginning skill in forming letters and/or words (after Week 6) as he/she:

- makes discrete marks, some of which may look like a letter?
- writes at least one recognizable letter along with other marks?
- writes the correct first letter of a name or word?
- correctly writes his/her name or a word?

**FOLLOW-UP LEARNING SUPPORTS**

**Reinforce**

The following activities are designed to supplement ELM activity plans in the ongoing development of writing skills.

- Fold several pieces of paper in half and staple them together to form a book. Invite children to be the author and illustrator of the book. Encourage children to write as well as draw a story.
- Provide writing opportunities in your room’s interest areas. Example: Place a menu in the dramatic play area, along with pads of paper and pencils for children to write food orders.
- Use sign-in sheets for program attendance and participation in centers, and consider other supports for children’s writing suggested in the Language/Literacy section of the ELM Curriculum User Guide: 3–5 Years (see especially the More Practices for Promoting Language and Literacy section and the boxed description of How a Morning Message Supports Many Language and Literacy Skills).
Reintroduce

The following activities are designed to support the development of writing skills among children who need additional support for writing. The activities are also appropriate for all children.

- Provide alphabet rubber stamps for children to explore in stamping different letters on paper.
- Offer individualized support to a child for looking closely at how the first letter of his/her name is formed. Invite the child to make a mark that is like the letter.