

Stages of Emergent Writing		
Stage	Description	Example
Drawing	Drawings that represent writing	
Scribbling	Marks or scribbles the child intends to be writing	FIN & OKLAG
Wavy scribbles or mock handwriting	Wavy scribbles that imitate cursive writing and have a left-to-right progression; child pretends to write words	mmm.
Letter-like forms or mock letters	Letters and marks that resemble letter-like shapes	P1019H1
Letter strings	Strings of letters that do not create words, written left to right, including uppercase and lowercase letters	500 HO(P1
Transitional writing	Letters with spaces in between to resemble words; letters/words copied from environmental print; letters often reversed	<u>5</u> [00]
Invented or phonetic spelling	Different ways to represent the sounds in words; the first letter of the word or beginning and ending sounds represent the entire word	TLKTHE
Beginning word and phrase writing	Words with beginning, middle, and ending letter sounds; short phrases	MON
Conventional spelling and sentence writing	Correct spelling of words, generally the child's name and words such as <i>mom</i> and <i>dad</i> ; sentences with punctuation and correct use of uppercase and lowercase letters	MADISON

Source: https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2017/emergent-writing