

Writing My Name: Ages 4-5

Practicing writing his name will help your child:

- Learn to recognize letters and numbers
- Improve his hand-eye coordination
- Gain confidence in his writing ability



Ideas to try with your child:

- Practice forming letters and numbers on trays with sand or shaving cream.
- Write your child's name in large print using a marker or crayon on unlined paper. Talk about how you are forming each upper and lower case letter. Invite your child to copy from your model.
- Write names of other members of the family for her to copy.
- Give him practice with pencils, crayons, markers, and colored pencils. Shorter pencils will produce a more adult pencil grip.

If your child is struggling:

- Write your child's name with a highlighter or yellow marker. Trace over his name with your finger and ask him to follow with a marker.
- Have him write the first letter of his name and you write the rest.
- Invite your child to make lists for the grocery store. Do your best to read his scribbles and encourage him to keep writing.
- Hide the lined paper. This is pressure he doesn't need.

Going further:

- Have your child write labels for things around your house: chair, door, window, TV. Copy words from food containers (cereal, milk, rice, beans).
- Show you child how to write a letter. Your child can draw a picture and add a few words in his own handwriting. Don't forget to mail it!

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Begin to print or copy own name, and identify at least some of the letters." Communicating (Literacy), Ages 4-5, pg. 77