



... 15-Minute ...
In-Service Suites

EMERGENT WRITING



NATIONAL CENTER ON

Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning



Emergent Writing Stretches Across ELOF Domains

	CENTRAL DOMAINS				
	APPROACHES TO LEARNING	SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	COGNITION	PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
▲ INFANT/TODDLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
● PRESCHOOLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Mathematics Development	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
			Literacy	Scientific Reasoning	





Emergent Writing Stretches Across ELOF Domains



- Approaches to Learning
 - Initiative and Curiosity (Infant)
 - Creativity (Infant/Toddler & Preschool)
- Language and Literacy
 - Language and communication (Infant/Toddler)
 - Literacy (Preschool)
- Cognition
 - Imitation and symbolic representation and play (Infant/Toddler)
 - Counting and Cardinality (Preschool)
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development
 - Fine motor (Infant/Toddler & Preschool)

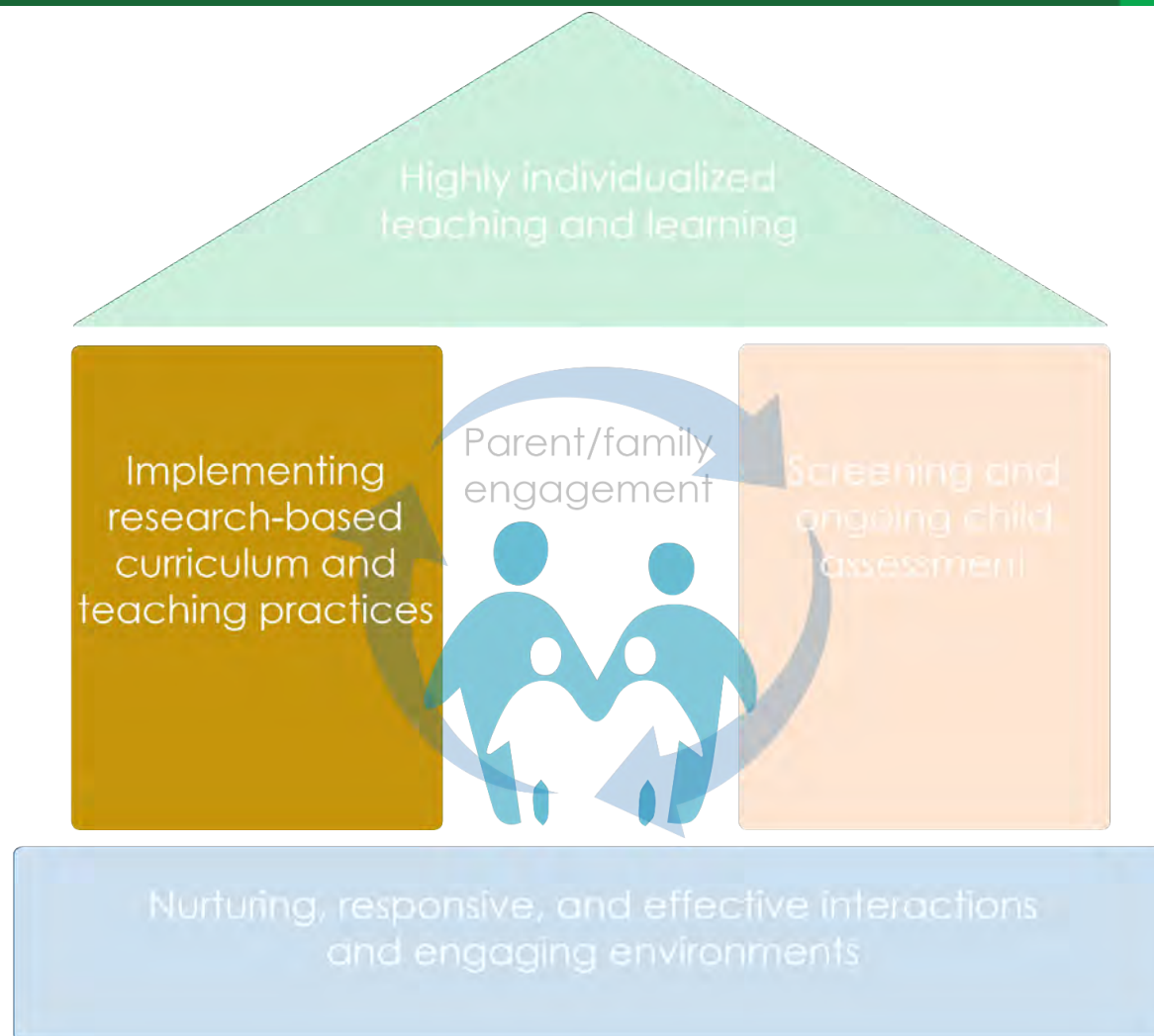


Framework for Effective Practice





Framework for Effective Practice





Session Objectives

- **Identify** the significance of young children's emergent writing for school readiness
- **Describe** what emergent writing looks like in young children
- **Implement** practical ways to begin to support emergent writing in your care setting



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Emergent Writing

Overview & Development



Definition of Emergent Writing

- Children's early attempts writing begins with random marks and drawings and advances to invented and conventional spelling
- Children as young as 2 years understand that writing has meaning and communicates ideas





Early Stages of Emergent Writing

Children often write in drawings or scribbles without using letters





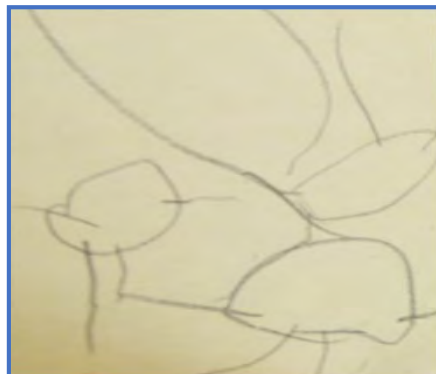
Early Stages of Emergent Writing

0. Pre-drawing



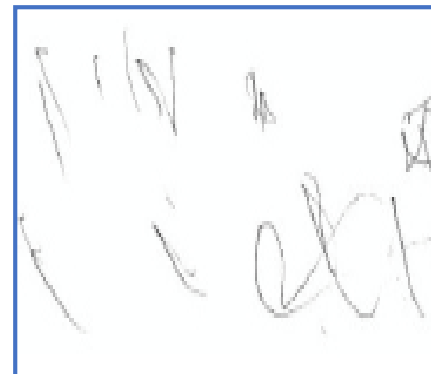
Random marks
without meaning
attached to
them

1. Drawing



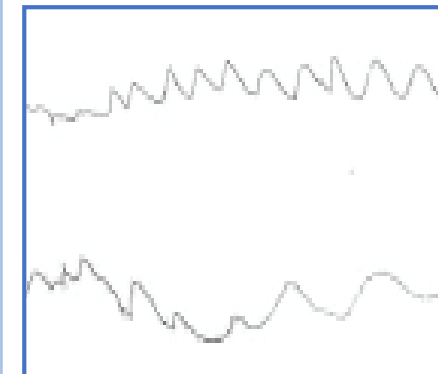
Drawings that
represent
writing

2. Scribbling



Marks or
scribbles the
child intends to
be writing

3. Wavy Scribbles/Mock Handwriting



Wavy scribbles
that have left-to-
right
progression;
child pretends to
write words



Middle Stages of Emergent Writing Development

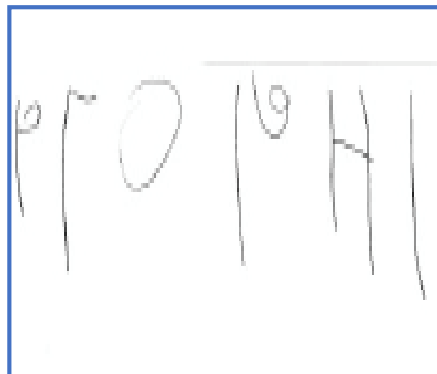
Children begin to understand that writing includes specific symbols (letters) and follow certain patterns, but they do not yet understand or have letter-sound correspondence.





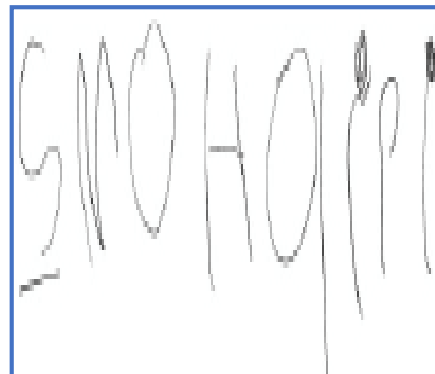
Middle Stages of Emergent Writing

4. Letter-like Forms/Mock Letters



Letters and marks that resemble letter-like shapes

5. Letter Strings



Strings of letters that do not create words, written left to right, including uppercase and lowercase letters

6. Transitional Writing



Letters with spaces in between to resemble words; letters or words copied from environmental print; letters often reversed



Late Stages of Emergent Writing Development

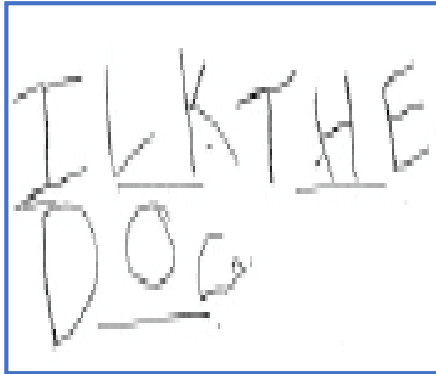
Children begin to understand and intentionally use letters to represent sounds, often starting with representing beginning sounds, then moving to ending sounds, middle sounds, and invented and more conventional spelling.





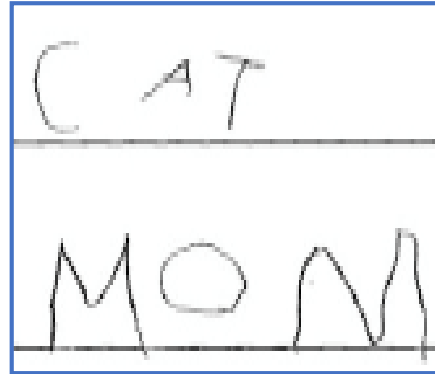
Late Stages of Emergent Writing

7. Invented Spelling



Invented or phonetic spelling; different ways to represent the sounds in words; often, the first letter of the word or beginning and ending sounds represent the entire word

8. Beginning Word and Phrase Writing

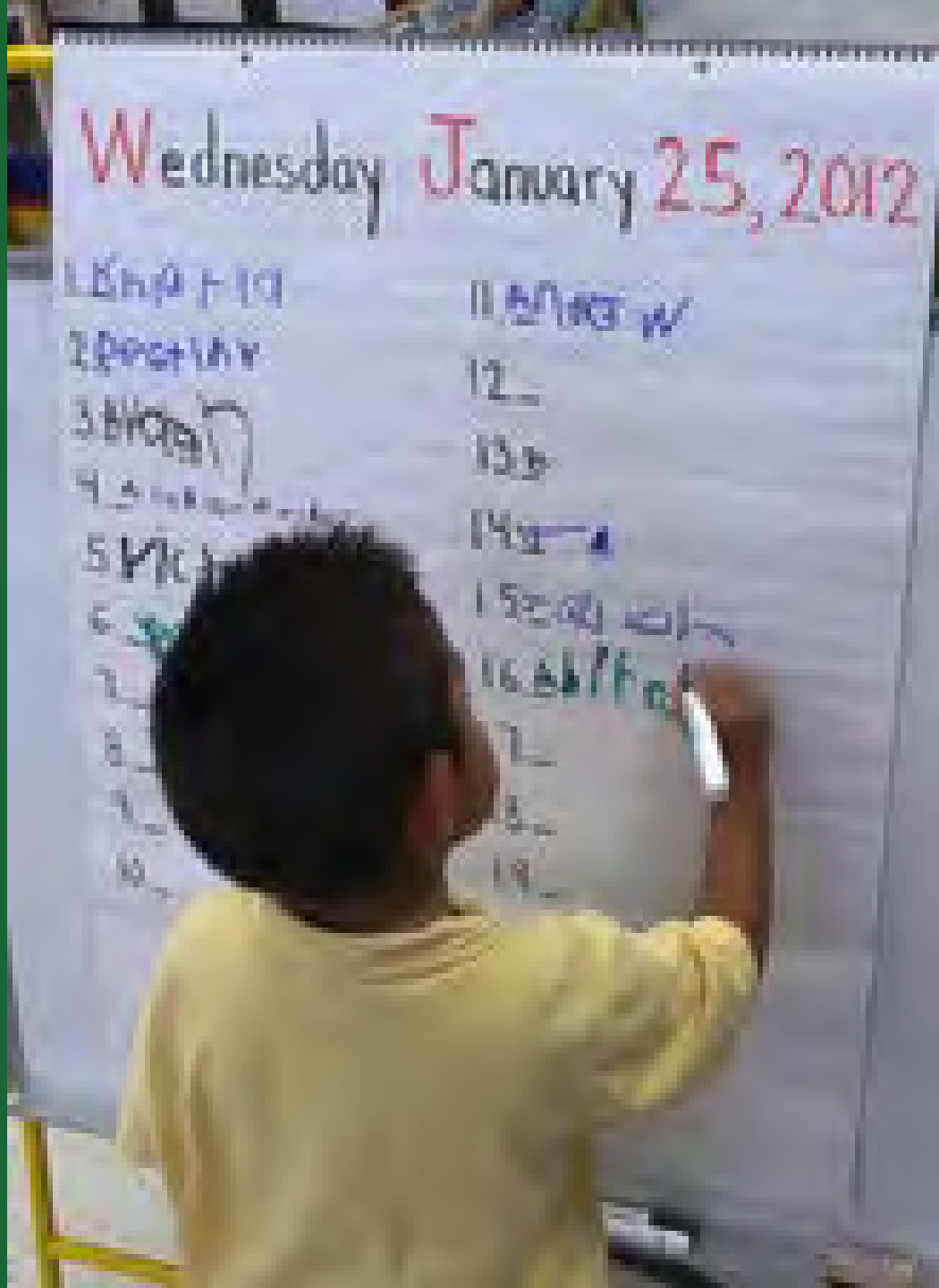


Words with beginning, middle, and ending letter sounds; short phrases

9. Conventional Spelling and Sentence Writing



Correct spelling, generally the child's name and simpler or familiar words; sentences with punctuation and correct use of uppercase and lowercase letters



Supporting Emergent Writing

Practical Tips and Tools



Supporting the Earliest Stages of Writing

- To support pre-drawing, early drawing, and scribbling:
 - Provide writing materials for children and encourage their use
 - If children can talk, ask them to tell you about their drawing
 - Revisit children's drawing the next day and have children again tell you what it is or says





Supporting Middle and Later Stages of Writing



- Start with name writing
- Model writing throughout the day and in different contexts
- Engage in shared and independent writing with children
- Include authentic opportunities for writing throughout the day
- Encourage peer scaffolding

Remember... You are supporting a *process*, not an outcome.



Supporting the Emergent Writing of *All* Children

- Accept all levels of children's writing
- Accept children's writing errors as learning or teaching opportunities
- Be mindful of children's physical abilities to write
- Allow children to write in whatever language they are most comfortable
 - Be aware of general differences between writing in English and writing in children's home language





Learning Activity: Writing in Your Setting

- Select samples of children's writing from your care setting, and review their drawing and writing
- In which stage(s) of emergent writing are children?
 - Don't forget to consider whether the sample shows children's teacher-supported or independent writing
- What supports can you put in place during writing for children to help them develop in this area?
- What learning opportunities can you put in place to encourage children to practice writing in a fun and meaningful way?



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Review

