

Hi-Write Pre-Writing Tracing Designs Guide

Part of the Hi-Write Product Series, written by Lori Dillon, OTR/L



Introduction

Hi-Write Prewriting Tracing Designs offer a successful way for children to begin working on tracing and copying basic line designs and geometric forms within a clearly delineated highlighted space. Additional visual cues for starting and stopping on a target are provided for increased focus on fine-motor control, eye-hand coordination, and accuracy. These line designs and geometric forms are the basic fundamentals and foundation for printing letters. Typically, children must master these basic designs before being introduced to letter formation. Line designs and shapes on these sheets are offered in the developmental sequence of how children typically master formation of the basic lines and shapes:

- Vertical Line
- Square
- Right-to-left downward sloping diagonal
- Horizontal line
- X
- Left-to-right downward sloping diagonal
- Circle
- Triangle
- Cross
- Diamond

Product Use

Prewriting tracing designs are to be used in one-on-one sessions, small-group sessions, or in the classroom during prewriting activities.

Objectives

Prewriting designs make up the strokes that are necessary to form letters. These Prewriting Tracing Designs help children trace and copy prewriting line designs and forms so they are prepared to apply these skills to handwriting.

Games & Activities

1. Tape sheets of different shapes on the wall around the room and have children rotate through the stations to practice each shape.
2. Have the children find something in the room that is the same shape as the form they have practiced tracing.
3. Have the children practice painting the same geometric forms and line designs on large sheets of paper on an easel with gross arm movements before tracing them on the worksheets.
4. Let the child trace the shapes with their fingers first before tracing with a pencil. Make sure they are starting and stopping on the target!
5. Tape a cutout racecar form to the top of the pencil and have the child 'drive' his car on the 'road' of each shape.

Modifications

This paper may be used on a slantboard for improved visual orientation for the child and to assist with proper wrist positioning for a more functional pencil grasp. As well, this paper is ideally coupled with a multisensory approach to teaching handwriting. A multisensory approach might include the following:

- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers in shaving cream, chocolate pudding, finger paint, or sand.
- Writing shapes, letters, and numbers on the sidewalk using chalk and then spraying with water in a spray bottle to erase.
- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers on paper placed over sandpaper.
- Crumpling up tissue paper into small balls and gluing onto an outline of a shape, letter, or number.
- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers with scented crayons or markers (smell is most closely linked to memory).
- Forming shapes, letters, and numbers out of theraputty, play-doh, or clay.
- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers with a flashlight on a large sheet of vertically mounted paper.
- Walk, jump, hop, or crawl on a masking tape line that demonstrates the formation of shapes, letters, and numbers.
- Drive a toy car on a large model of a shape, letter, or number on the floor.

This multisensory approach helps children learn and master the correct formation of shapes, letters, and numbers in a fun manner. Hi-Write paper compliments to this multisensory approach to handwriting.



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