

TIC-TAC-TOE

Try with a Friend!

- Hold your pencil with your alligator fingers
- Be sure to start your letters from the top and work your way down or around
- Pick either your letter as an X or an O, then try to fill in the square (s) that you think will make it so that you have 3 of your letters in a row
- Make sure to take turns with your friend

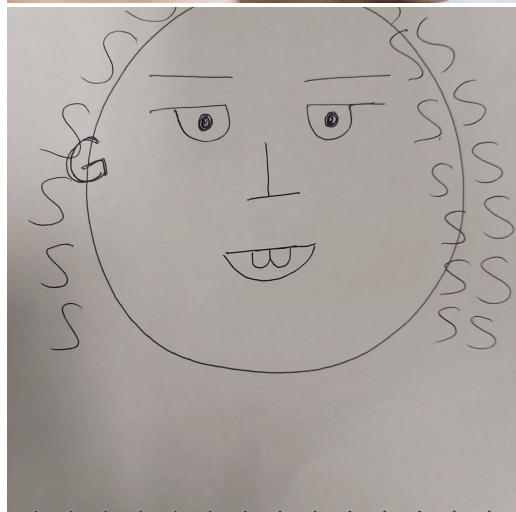


Other Fun Ways to Play!

- Try different letters instead of X & O; maybe B & D, or Q & P
- Challenge a Family member with Tic-Tac-Toe Mastery
- Choose a different colour for every letter and make it a rainbow board! Name all the colours when you're done



TRY THIS *At Home!* PRINTING



Draw Yourself, with Letters

- Use different letters to draw different parts of your face!
- Maybe an O for your head!
- G for your ears!
- D for your mouth or B for some teeth
- P for your eyes
- Lots of S's for some hair
- I for some eyebrows

Fill in the Blank

Think of the missing letter in the word, then do your best to write it in! The missing letters are L, F, E, H, T & I



I y



l p h a n t

l i o n



l o s t



l u r r i l e



T i g e r



For a bigger challenge, write the whole word on a separate piece of paper! Make sure to start your letters at the top.



Practical Printing

Psst... Show this to a parent or guardian!



Why Focus on Printing Skills?

It may seem like common knowledge that children benefit from working on printing skills for their future writing skills. However, it extends further than that. For example, when the fine motor abilities (like printing) can't keep up with a child's thoughts and abilities in school, they are unable to demonstrate what they know, which can lead to frustration in school and potentially poor grades (Canadian Children's Therapy, 2021).

Did you know children tend to follow a fairly predictable pattern of when they develop the ability to draw various shapes at different ages, known as "pre-writing strokes" (Kiley, 2016)? Children's reading and writing skills often develop alongside one another, and children who are able to produce pre-writing strokes will often have an easier time in learning how to create letters and numbers (Kiley, 2016).

How will Practice Benefit Their Development?

Definitions:

Imitation - child first watches a demonstration of the shape/letter being formed, and then they immediately try to do what they just saw (Kiley, 2016)

Copying - child is simply shown a picture or a model of the shape, and then they try to reproduce it on their own (Kiley, 2016)

Children typically learn how to imitate drawing shapes before they learn how to copy them. Once they've learned how to copy those shapes, they can begin to form a visual memory of them and draw them without a visual model (Kiley, 2016). Additionally, Therapy activities work to target specific muscles and ligaments in the fingers, palm, wrist, and forearm (Canadian Children's Therapy, 2021).

Milestone Markers (Kiley, 2016)

1-2 Years

- Scribbling
- Imitating vertical lines, horizontal lines, circular scribbles

2-3 Years

- Imitating cross
- Copying vertical line, horizontal line, circle

3-4 Years

- Drawing circle without a model

4-5 Years

- Imitating square
- Copying cross, square, right and left diagonal lines, X shape, some letters and numbers
- May be able to write own name
- Drawing a recognizable face with eyes, nose, mouth
- Drawing a basic stick figure with 2-4 body parts
- Coloring inside a circle and filling it at least halfway

5-6 Years

- Copying triangle
- Printing own name
- Copying most capital and lowercase letters
- Drawing a person with at least 6 body parts

