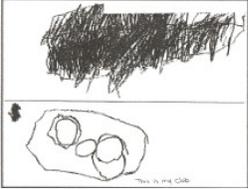
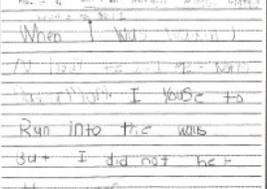
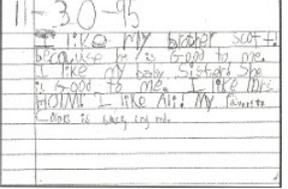


Stages of Writing

Name	Description	Example
Scribbling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random assortment of marks • Resemble drawings • Used to show ideas 	
Letter-Like Symbols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marks start to resemble letters and numbers (no spacing) • Can tell about own writing 	
Stages of Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some legible letters • Developing awareness of letter/sound relationship • Capital letters, no spacing 	
Beginning Sounds Emerge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning to see the difference between a letter and word • Message makes sense and matches the picture 	
Consonants Represent Words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spacing between words • Mixture of upper and lowercase letters • Sentences tell ideas 	
Beginning, Middle, & End Sounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting to spell familiar words correctly (names, sight words) • Other words are spelled the way they sound 	
Transitional Phases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is readable • Approaches conventional spelling (patterns and form) 	
Standard Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spell most words correctly • Understanding root words, compound words & contractions 	

Why are the Stages Important?

- Understanding the stages of writing will help you understand what to expect from your child.
- You can help your child practice and grow to the next stage

What Can I Do At Home?

- Early Developing Writers (stages 1-4)
 - Provide opportunities to create stories using pictures
 - Retell stories using pictures, draw favorite characters
 - Label parts of pictures
 - Practice copying upper and lowercase letters, familiar names, words in the environment
 - Take turns writing to each other
- Developing Writers (stages 5 & 6)
 - Make lists (groceries, favorite places, family members, etc)
 - Encourage sounding out words (stretching the sounds)
 - Practice spacing between "words" (using finger, popsicle stick), using lowercase and uppercase letters correctly
 - Create stories or retell favorite stories using pictures and simple word phrases to match
- Emerging Writers (stages 7 & 8)
 - Practice spelling patterns and writing sight words
 - Encourage using different types of sentences while writing (questions with question marks, feelings with exclamation marks, quotations, etc)
 - Retell favorite stories using detailed sentences
 - Research favorite topics

Final Thought

Although learning how to spell words correctly is important, it is not essential to the writing process until the last two stages. As hard as it may seem, focus on the sounds of the words and encourage expressing ideas. If your child gets frustrated because the word isn't spelled correctly, teach them to circle the word and keep writing. Then they can go back and fix any words they circled.