



TEACHING PRE-PRINTING SKILLS

In order for children to be successful printers later on in life, they need to be able to print **nine** shapes first. These nine shapes are the basis for all 26 letters.

- The nine precursor shapes are:

| — ○ + / □ \ X △

- The shapes should be learned in the order presented
 - Gradually introduce new shapes to your child using the following progression:
 1. Tracing: using a crayon or their finger, they trace a shape that is pre-drawn
 2. Imitating: your child sees your movements as you draw the shape, and then they do it
 3. Copying: your child looks at a pre-drawn shapes and produces the same shape
 4. Printing from memory
 - Make practice fun and successful for your child!
- If needed, initially use hand-over-hand and gross motor activities to help your child develop the movement

ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE PRE-PRINTING

- ☐ Have an iSpy activity where your child has to circle the target items
- ☐ Draw lines to match the fruit with their colour, or the Paw Patrol character with their vehicle
- ☐ Draw an X on the picture that doesn't belong
- ☐ Make shapes with caulking or puffy paint and have your child trace the shapes with their fingers
- ☐ Use window markers and have them make shapes on the mirrors or windows
- ☐ Use bath tub crayons and colour in the tub



- ☐ Use Sidewalk chalk to decorate your sidewalk or deck
- ☐ Fill a large Ziploc bag with hair gel and tape it to a piece of coloured paper. Have your child use their fingers to make lines and shapes in the gel
- ☐ Finger paint! Using paint or food
- ☐ Tape a crayon to the bottom of a toy car and they can drive the car to make shapes
- ☐ Change your position to make it more interesting: tape paper underneath the table, colour on the floor, stand up at an easel, etc