



Pre-writing Activities

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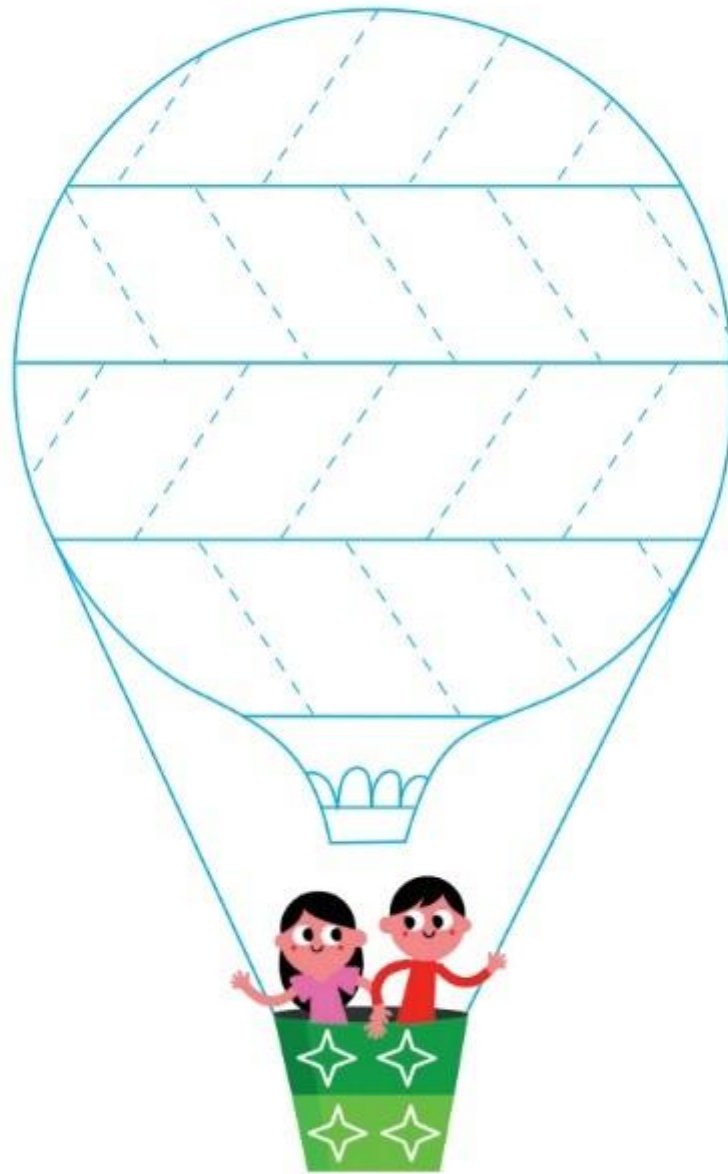
Now that your preschoolers are ready to learn the ABCs, there are a few skills that they need to train along the way. These skills are important for the development of their reading and writing abilities. One of these sets of skills is called 'pre-writing skills'. In definition, pre-writing skills are the fine motor skills required before actual writing begins. By now, your child has been developing the motor skills needed for writing. The next step is to make sure you support them and reinforce those motor skills through tailored activities and lessons. Tracing is one of the most popular pre-writing activities that helps children develop the skills needed to start writing. But how can your child practice tracing and why should they do it?

Letters are made of lines and curves. The letter 'A' is made up of three straight lines, while the letter 'B' is one straight line and two curves. Thus, before tracing actual letters, give your child the opportunity to practice their lines and curves. On our Kids Academy website, you can find activities dedicated to helping children practice these pre-writing skills. The first step is tracing straight and inclined lines:

1. [Tracing diagonal lines](#)

Trace Diagonal Lines.

Practice drawing diagonal lines. Trace the dotted lines.



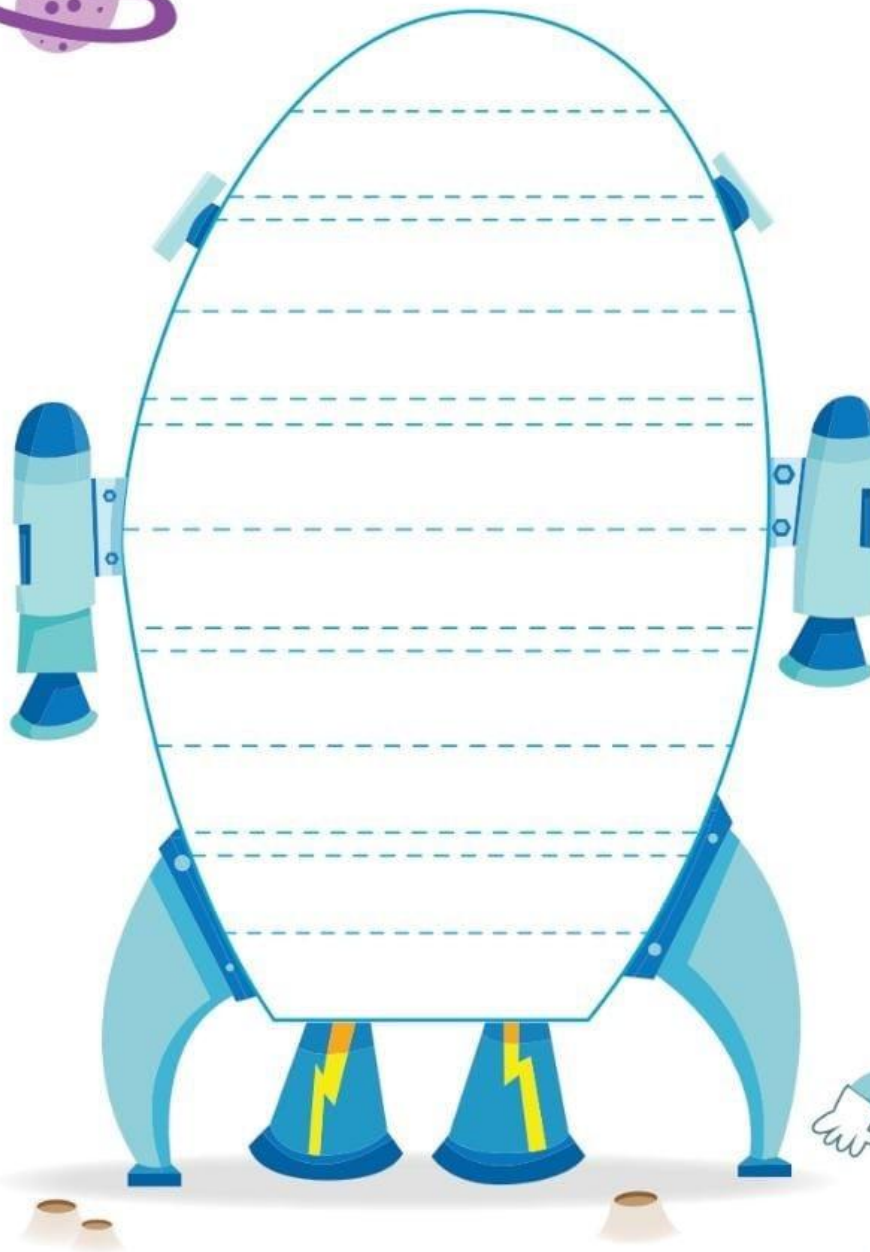
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2. Tracing horizontal lines

Tracing Horizontal Lines: Fix the Rocket

Trace the dotted lines from left to right.

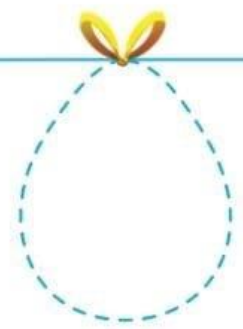
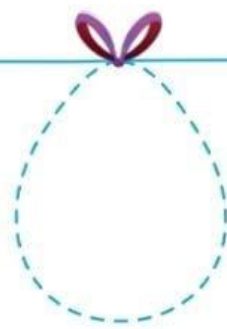
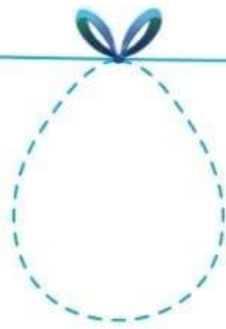
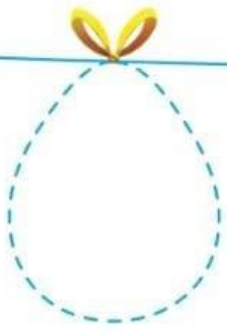
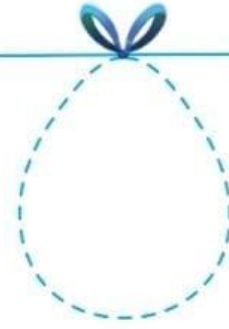
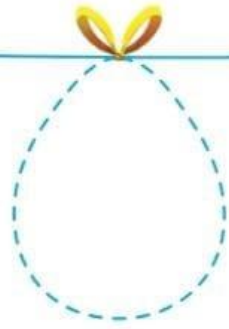
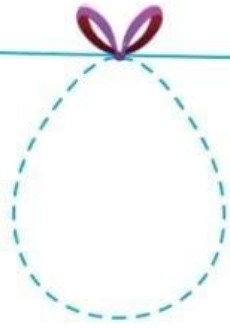


Having developed a good mastery of tracing and drawing straight lines, a child can move on to practicing their curves in order to prepare themselves for writing letters such as “O” and “S”. Use the activities below to develop this skill:

1. **Curved line tracing**

Curved Lines Tracing

Practice drawing curved lines. Trace the dotted lines.

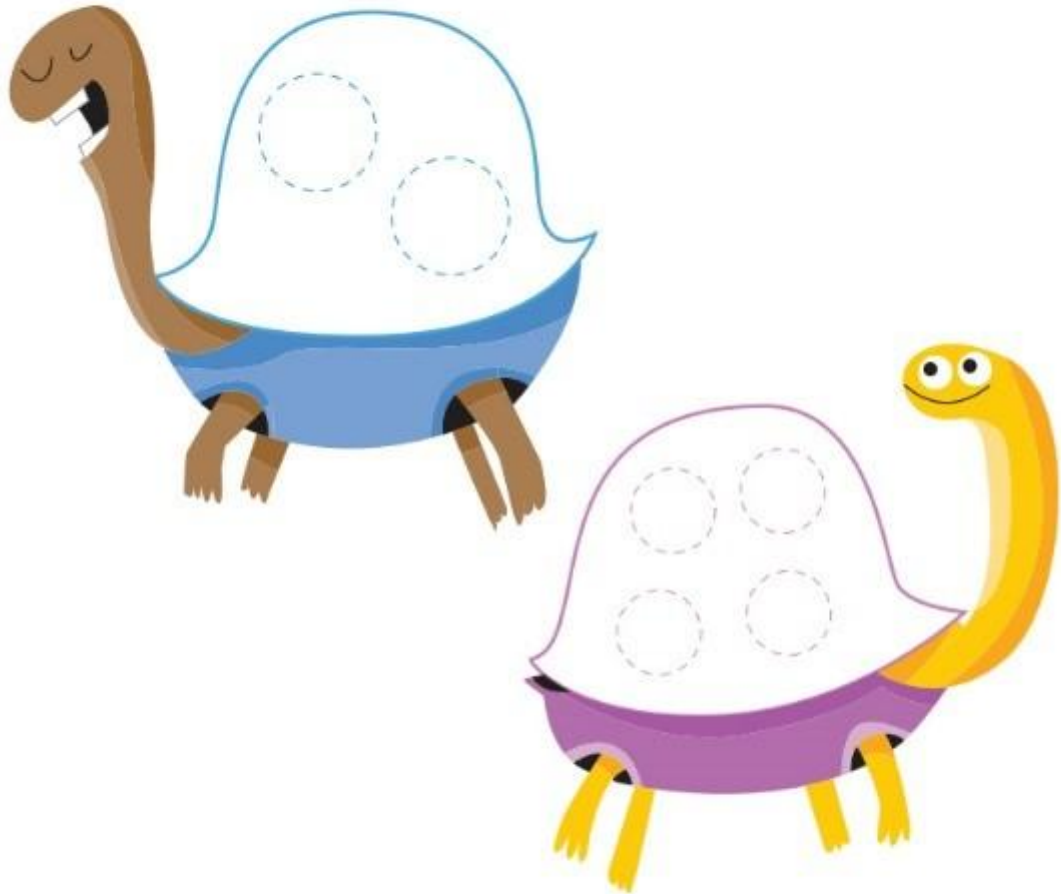


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Tracing Curved Lines

Trace the dotted lines. Then, trace the circles at the bottom of the page.



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Practicing these activities will help your child improve their fine motor skills, it can also sharpen their hand-eye coordination, encourage focus and concentration as well as promote healthy handwriting skills and proper pencil grip. These are the preliminary skills required for the pre-writing stage during preschool.

After your child demonstrates sufficient control over their line and curve tracing, you could provide them with a paper and pencil to scribble freestyle. At this point, they should be able to create letter-like shapes. Later, as they become more capable of

reproducing images of letters independently without the dotted lines, they start the process of active writing.

Keep in mind that each skill needs to develop at its own pace. Rushing one milestone before its due time can produce pressure on the child, leading to a negative relation with the task rather than building a healthy and positive outlook towards it. Thus, as a first step, it is important to stick to tracing before moving on to more advanced activities.

To read more articles on the topic of teaching English to preschoolers, check out our interactive catalog below.

