

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

Migrant Technical Assistance Support Center (M-TASC)

Spring 2017

Focus for this issue:

M-TASC's Item Analysis of the Fall 2016 ECA Pre-tests identified four common Areas of Growth across the METS: *Scissor Skills, Emergent Writing, Counting and Prepositions.*
This Early Childhood Newsletter highlights resources to support these four areas.

Scissor Skills - Setting Up For Success

Scissors

- Dull scissors will not cut paper

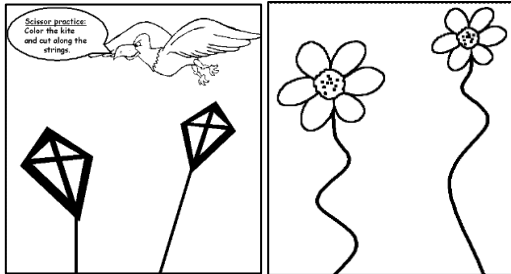
Paper

- Lightweight construction paper bends instead of cutting
- It is easier for small hands to hold and cut paper that is narrow

Practice, Practice, Practice

Scissor Skills - Straight and Curvy Lines

Instead of cutting around an object, your student can start by cutting on a line leading up to the object.



Straight-line and Curved-line examples can be found at www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/miscellaneous/scissor_skills.htm (Note: scissor_skills has an underline, not a space)

WARNING – do NOT click on the “Download” Button! This takes you to an ad. The website gives you a [print] option on the picture. If you **Right-click** on the picture, you can save it. (This is true for many websites, not just this one.)

Scissor Skills - Cutting Random Pieces to Fill a Design

Preparation:

- 1-inch strips of colored paper
- Draw picture outline on paper

Student:

- Cuts the 1-inch strips into random pieces;
- Then glues the pieces to “fill” the picture outline.

Combine Scissor Skill Practice with Other Activities

Shapes:

- Draw a circle, square, triangle or rectangle to fill with the cut pieces of paper.
- Use the cutting time to talk about the shape with the student.

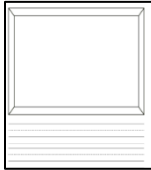
Retelling the story:

- Draw a simple outline of something from the story (ex. a truck) to fill with the cut pieces of paper.
- Use the cutting time to talk about what happened in the story.

Use the same link as the “Straight & Curvy Lines” to find picture- outlines related to the seasons and holidays to get you started. **Scroll down** to “More Scissor Skills Practice Projects.”
Sample from “Spring:” Flower, Raindrop
Sample for “Father’s Day:” Necktie

Emergent Writing - Story Paper

With the Story Paper from First-School's website, you can customize the activity to the letter your individual students need to work on.



www.first-school.ws/theme/printables/story-paper-drawing.htm

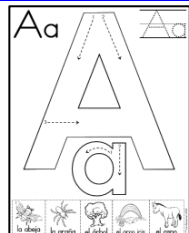
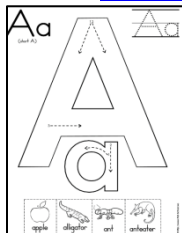
Story Paper Activities:

- Use to practice individual letters
- Use for student to retell the story: Draw a picture, dictate a sentence
- Use to write/trace/ copy the Student's Name or letter(s)

Emergent Writing - Alphabet Handwriting Worksheets and Books, English and Spanish

The "First School" website has

- individual worksheets to practice writing each letter
- Individual booklets to practice writing each letter and glue in picture words that start with the letter.
- The Spanish version of each uses pictures that start with the matching letter in Spanish, instead of mirroring the English words. www.first-school.ws/theme/handwriting.htm



Emergent Writing - Letter Formation Charts

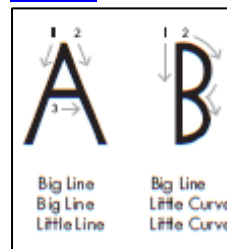
For traveling tutors, sometimes one chart with all 26 letters is more helpful than 26 different worksheets, to help you target the individual letters each student needs to write their name.

If you don't have one,

- You can ask the local elementary school for a chart, as schools use different styles.
- You can google, "free printable handwriting charts."

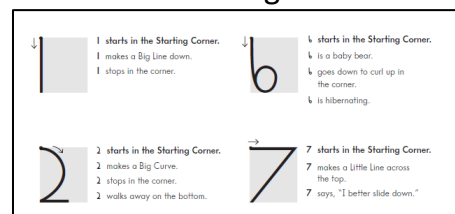
Handwriting Without Tears is a trademark curriculum for purchase. But its website has free "Letter Formation Charts" with suggested arrows and words to think/say as forming the letters and numbers.

www.hwtears.com/hwt/parents/parent-extras



The lower-case letters are grouped by the similar ways they are formed.

Handwriting without Tears has a free chart about writing numbers.



Counting - Utilize the Real Need for Counting in your Other Activities

Retelling a story:

- “How many trucks are in this story? *Let’s count...*”

Practicing shapes:

- “How many circles do you want to draw? (3 or 4?)”

Play with linking cubes – use stacks of 5 (or smaller). While the student plays, you can ask counting questions:

- “How many stacks do you want? (2 for you and 2 for your brother? *Let’s count...*)”
- When it is time to pick up: “Here is one red, where are more reds? Are there 5? *Let’s count – 1-2-3-4 – uh oh, one is missing. Let’s look for one more red block...*” (with the bonus that you leave with all of the blocks)

Counting to tell the Number - Using 5 Frames

<http://www.k-5mathteachingresources.com/kindergarten-math-activities.html>

This website is aligned to the Common Core for Grades K-5. The free games are now called, “Sample Activities.” Scroll down to find the samples for Kindergarten, including this group of games using 5-frame cards, number cards (0-5), counters and one die.

4. Keep going until all matching pairs have been found.

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©K-5MathTeac

- Five-Frame-Concentration (**this is the only one with the game cards used by all 4 games**)
- Five-Frame-Flash (need counters)
- Five-Frame-Match (need a die)
- Five-Frame-Numeral-Match (need counters)

Prepositions - Game Cards

Google: “free printable preposition worksheets for preschoolers.” **Open the generic site of printable images.** This site pulls in samples from a different websites. Click on the one you want to use. It will go to another screen for printing. (2 samples are highlighted below)

Game: Pick a card and act it out while using the preposition in a sentence: “Juanita is **under** the chair.”



Starting with the photos of the child might help your student connect the owl cartoon cards with the real actions.

Leprechauns for March:

