

Occupational Therapy Tip Sheet

JOURNAL STRATEGIES FOR PRE-PRINTERS



What are journal pre-printing strategies?

- Ideas to have children who are not yet printing (pre-printers) participate in journal time
- These ideas may also work for attendance sign in, agendas, etc.

Why change journaling for pre-printers?

- To participate at a level that matches motor or literacy skills
- To develop good habits for printing
- To reduce avoidance and improve confidence, participation and success

What are some journal strategies for children?

Strategies for pre-printers:

- Scribe the agenda message or have pre-printed stickers.
- Scribe the student's journal sentence and encourage drawing a picture. Encourage using more shapes in their drawings.
- Practice making shapes within the lines of the journal (I O + □ / \).
- Once forming simple shapes practice copying one or two letters.



Strategies for emerging printers:

- Encourage more detailed drawings.
- Continue to use the journal for practicing more difficult shapes (X ∆ □ □ Λ V).
- Scribe most of the sentence, but have the student copy one or two of the words or letters.





Strategies for modification of the printing lines:

- Use boldly defined lines with large, primary sizing.
- Use boxes for single words/letters or highlight the space where they should print the letter/word.
- Consider a dotted half line or a highlighted lower half to define tall, short and digging letters.





