Where does writing start?

PRE-WRITING SHAPES

Children should be able to form these 9 pre-writing strokes before asking them to write.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>2 years</th>
<th>2½ years</th>
<th>3 years</th>
<th>3½-4 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>4 years</th>
<th>4½ years</th>
<th>4½ years</th>
<th>4 years</th>
<th>5 years</th>
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Children who can adequately draw the oblique cross can copy a significantly higher number of letters than little ones who cannot.
Fun with Fine Motor at Home

The following are activity ideas children can do at home to develop their fine motor skills.

- Spreading butter/jelly/peanut butter on toast
- Opening a juice box
- Squeezing toothpaste onto a toothbrush and brushing their teeth
- Squeezing a sponge or washcloth
- Turning pages in a book
- Getting dressed (e.g. matching up the two halves of a velcro fastener, buttoning pants, zipping a jacket)
- Opening envelopes (e.g. junk mail)
- Squeezing water bottles to water plants
- Crumble paper to make paper snowballs balls and have a “snowball fight” or make paper basket balls and pretend to be the SPURS!
- Squeeze cloth pins and place on an empty can or ruler
- Explore eyedroppers and colored water
- Play with Legos and blocks
- Tear paper and create fun collages

What are some other activities you can try with your child at home?