

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

*\*\*This page will give you a brief overview of “normal” child development. Please keep in mind that every child develops at a slightly different rate than other children his/her age. Also, children with developmental delay, autism, or other childhood disorders may skip stages of development while excelling or falling behind in other areas. Feel free to ask your child’s doctor or occupational therapist if you have any questions.*

### Overview of Pre-Writing Developmental Stages

- Stage 1: Student mouths crayons or crinkles paper
- Stage 2: Student bangs crayons on paper
- Stage 3: Student scribbles randomly
- Stage 4a: Student scribbles spontaneously in a horizontal direction
- Stage 4b: Student scribbles spontaneously in a vertical direction
- Stage 5: Student scribbles spontaneously in a circular direction
- Stage 6a: Student imitates a horizontal scribble direction
- Stage 6b: Student imitates a vertical scribble direction
- Stage 6c: Student imitates a circular scribble direction
- Stage 7a: Student imitates a horizontal line
- Stage 7b: Student imitates a vertical line
- Stage 7c: Student imitates a circular line
- Stage 8a: Student copies a horizontal line
- Stage 8b: Student copies a vertical line
- Stage 9a: Student copies a circle
- Stage 9b: Student imitates a cross
- Stage 10a: Student copies a cross
- Stage 10b: Student imitates a right/left diagonal
- Stage 11a: Student copies a right/left diagonal
- Stage 11b: Student imitates a square
- Stage 12a: Student copies a square
- Stage 12b: Student imitates a left/right diagonal
- Stage 13a: Student copies a left/right diagonal
- Stage 13b: Student imitates an X
- Stage 14a: Student copies an X
- Stage 14b: Student imitates a triangle
- Stage 15a: Student copies a triangle
- Stage 15b: Student imitates a diamond
- Stage 16: Student copies a diamond

### Types and Examples of Play Activities

(from Occupational Therapy for Children, by Jane Case-Smith)

**Exploratory Play (ages 0-2 years)** - recreational experiences through which the child develops body scheme, sensory integrative and motor skills, and concepts of sensory characteristics and actions of human and nonhuman objects

-Examples include auditory toys, balls, bells, blocks, dolls and stuffed animals, hammer and pegs, language play with parents, mobiles, pop-up toys, pots and pans, rolling,

crawling, sand and water toys, scooter boards, scribbling with crayons, squeeze toys, teething toys, textured surfaces

**Symbolic Play (ages 2-4 years)** – play and recreational experiences through which child formulates, tests, classifies, and refines ideas, feelings, and combined actions; associated with development of language, objects are given importance according to child's ability to symbolize, control, change, and master

-Examples include balance-rocker boards, blocks, beads, blowing bubbles, cars, trucks, chalk and blackboard activities, clay, crayons, paints, dolls and stuffed animals, dramatic songs, "dress up", fingerpaints, hand puppets, musical instruments, puzzles, rocking horse, simple story books, stacking toys, tricycles

**Creative Play (ages 4-7 years)** – play and recreational experiences through which the child refines sensory, motor, cognitive, and social skills; explores combinations of actions on multiple objects; and develops interests and competencies that promote performance of school-related and work-related activities

-Examples include baking cookies, stringing beads, bicycle riding, craft kits, finger painting, gardening, origami, paperdolls, playing house, simple weaving (placemats and pot holders), simple woodworking, stencils

**Games (ages 7-12 years)** – play and recreational experiences that have distinct rules and involve skill development and social interaction in competitive atmosphere; actions and results of actions are compared against those of peers

-Examples include board games, card games, checkers, clubs, collections, computer games, field days (races and tug-of-war), hangman, jacks, marbles, jump rope, organized outdoor games, ping pong, roller skating, school plays, performances, scooter board races, team sports, trading cards