

Its all right, your TODDLER can write!

It is a real great feeling and experience to engage a pre primary kid at school. While some of them are very social, teachers find it challenging with few introverts. Also as everything looks new to the child, he is very confused, reluctant and suspicious about the school atmosphere. As long as the teacher is playing with the kids and reciting rhymes and engages them in eating and sleeping, they are ok. But when it comes to writing habits, kids are very confused and reluctant. We can try many methods and here are few of my ideas to help a tiny tot. During the activity, teacher can identify kids of same wave length and form them into groups or clusters. Teacher should be talking, conversing, and conveying what she wants to instruct the kids. With repeated exercises, kids will identify the objects and the activity with clear expressions. Teachers can use these tips and also try some of these along with their own ideas.

I, as a student counsellor instruct simple, clear and easy methods to train the students at school. Firstly, we allow first three months for the kids to plan their own time table. It need not be the same every day and also for every kid. Children enjoy doing the activity in the areas they are interested. The teacher will only monitor them and follow the child and guides wherever necessary. And of course, Teacher should have her own diary which indicates her regular activity of each child, else she may get lost in the routine works.

Slowly, as the kids settle down and accept the school as their second home, we introduce the writing habits. As the motor skills in each child differ, we wait for the child to accept and find interest in the activity. There are very interesting methods we follow teaching a child to learn writing,

Fun activity- Teacher alone knows that she is helping the child to write. For the child, its absolute fun activity. The play area in our school has few dark black boards, sand area, small salt bed, where the child by himself will try to scribble and enjoy his creativity. When the child is scribbling, the teacher stands by his side and scribbles on any of these places. A teacher adopts only one pattern at a time. A slanting line at the first level. Whatever the child scribbles, teacher only draws a slanting line.

Again, teacher can also try any other lines, in which the child is showing interest. Here, the child gets curious and wants to draw the same and approaches for a help. This is a perfect moment for a teacher to teach the child. Now teacher and the child will start drawing few lines and start appreciating one another. This activity may take few days or a week, depending upon the child's learning capacity. When all the children are perfect in drawing, teacher moves to the next level and this goes on for few more days.

When all the kids are perfect in one shape, teacher uses shapes and shows them the resemblance with their creations. This way child will start learning from other kids and can appreciate all shapes. The same play way method is adopted to train the children learn different lines, shapes and curves.

When all the kids are clear with all these strokes, teacher switches this activity from a black board, sand and salt bed to a white board and uses different colours for different strokes. This can be taught in less time, as all the kids are clear about different strokes. At times it is better to leave the kids to teach one another, as they get engaged physically and mentally to train each other. This peer activity helps the child to progress with the class and creates a healthy synergy in the school activity.

In the third stage, a teacher helps the child to draw the same strokes in the book. This takes little time, as the child has to understand to reduce the size of his strokes to suit the space in a book.

The entire activity might take few months. The most interesting thing in the entire activity is, a child learns with his own interest, at his own pace and enjoys his creation in the book.

It is also better not to teach the same line patterns to all the kids. This way, there is no room for comparison between the kids. Parents should understand that there is no reason to compare the kids.

In the entire learning activity, children love to scribble, dirty the place, and most of the times do not follow any instruction. A teacher should patiently allow these tantrums and be oblivious of the same. If she gives attention to these acts, a child will tend to repeat the same every time. A teacher should follow the policy of let it go. If not, a child is always smart enough to turn the situation towards the wrong side and grab the attention disturbing the whole plan of learning.

Teachers can use these techniques very easily. Also the schools and parents should follow same pace, so that the child will get perfect in holding the pencil and getting used to writing skills.
