

## Stage I: Pre-writing

### Make Your Own Sandpaper Letters

Sandpaper letters are used to teach both letter sounds and proper letter formation.

1. Print a set of letters from the [Lowercase Letter Outlines a-z](#) file. Check out the [letter sound recognition check sheet](#) for the order of presentation. Have your child focus on one set of letters until it is mastered before moving on to the next set.
2. Color the background: pink for consonants, blue for vowels
3. Using school glue and a paint brush, fill in the inside of the letter with an even layer of glue
4. Sprinkle sand on the glue, tap off the excess
5. Set aside to dry



## What to do with your Sandpaper Letters

1. Trace your new sandpaper letters with your pointer and middle fingers while making the letter sound for a multi-sensorial learning experience!
2. Have your child trace the letter several times and then recreate it in a sand tray
3. Find objects around the house that begin with each letter sound
4. Create words



## More Sensorial Writing

Get creative with sensorial writing and remember, repetition is the key to muscle memory.

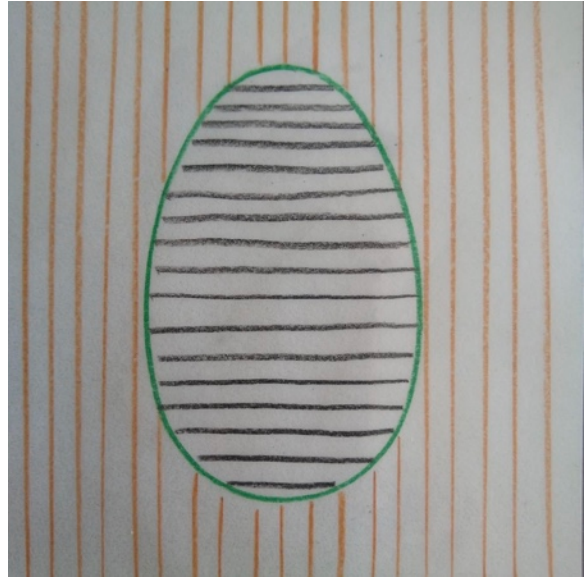
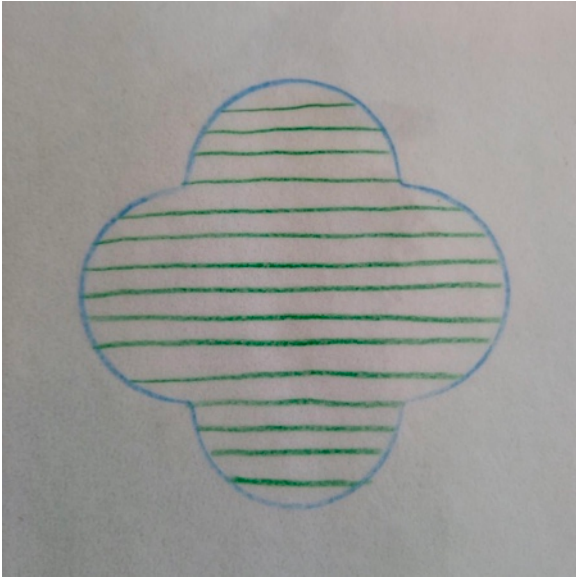
- Use sidewalk chalk or a can of shaving cream and write 100 m's on the driveway
- Make a large s then tape it to the wall and have your child trace it over and over with a laser pointer
- Check out this link for more ideas on how to use your letter outlines. <https://livingmontessorinow.com/tactile-nature-letters-free-printable-letter-templates-montessori-monday/>



## Make Your Own Metal Insets

Follow Becca's guide to [make your own Metal Insets](#). Use the insets to practice making straight lines.

1. Chose one inset and trace the shape
2. Have your child carefully draw lines from one side of the inset to the other (with the frame still in place)
3. Once mastered, have them draw lines without the frame, being careful to stay within the line of the shape
4. Add a second inset and change colors or the direction of the lines
5. Turn the inset to create new designs



## Pin-poking

Pin-poking is a great way to practice holding a writing instrument correctly and gain hand strength. You can pin-poke basic shapes, letter outlines, numerals, even more complicated shapes like the continents.

1. Create a shape or have your child create a shape using a black marker
2. Place the paper on a soft surface, a piece of foam or cardboard will work
3. Sharpen the tip of a wooden chopstick to use for poking
4. Have your child carefully poke through the paper following the black line of the shape



Pin-poke all the planets and make your own solar system!

