

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Provide many, varied opportunities for very young children to use small motor movements, rotating their wrists, and *pincer grasp* (with finger and thumb) through exploring and playing with a selection of materials and experiences, including water play, dumping and filling containers, stacking, eating, and grasping.
- Create a writing center/writing area with writing tools such as stamps, paper, envelopes, writing tablets, alphabet materials, over-sized paper, crayons of various sizes and shapes, and other writing materials. Include note cards with a few common words and pictures to support children's writing.
- Provide pencils, markers, crayons, paper, chalk, chalkboards, computer keyboards, stencils, and rubber stamps with washable ink in centers/*interest areas* throughout the room, including the block area, *dramatic play* area, art area and others.
- Provide opportunities or areas where children can experiment with writing letters and words in shaving cream, salt, playdough, etc.
- Occasionally change the dramatic play area into a post office or school to encourage children to write to parents and other children.
- Label common objects in the room and items children bring from home to share. Make sure that children often see their name in writing, such as on their cubby/personal space and personal belongings.

- Provide clipboards and writing tools to allow for children to “sign” their names when wanting to play in that interest area.
- Provide hand-held paper punchers to increase finger and hand strength needed for holding writing tools.
- Provide tracing paper and pencils for children to copy letters, numbers, shapes, etc.

