

# Top 10 Prewriting Myths



*Myth #1: Pencil grasp develops naturally. The Truth:* Every child benefits from understanding how to hold a pencil. The focus on grasp messages to them the importance of control in to learning to write legibly.

*Myth #2: Demonstrating prewriting activities to the whole class saves time. The Truth:* Young children do not have the perceptual and visual skills to learn quickly with the teacher at a whiteboard. Get them in small groups for rapid learning.

*Myth #3: Playgrounds and building blocks will develop the bilateral control needed for writing. The Truth:* Just like grasp, not every child will generalize gross motor skills into drawing and coloring. Use targeted instruction to optimize sitting posture at a writing surface and the use of the “helper hand” in preparation for writing.

*Myth #4: Every 4-year old child knows where their pointer finger is. The Truth:* Many children with excellent fine motor and language skills do not know what you are talking about! When you teach grasp, they have no idea what you are saying.

*Myth #5: Kids with sensory processing or visual-perceptual issues are easy to spot. The Truth:* Many young children can hide their mild SI or VP issues behind claiming that they aren’t interested in coloring and drawing, or that they simply love building or running around more than they like using dough or chalk.

*Myth #6: No child needs to be taught how to color. The Truth:* Many children have been spending time on screens, and they have been using their fingers to “color”. They have no idea how to manage the “grippiness” and shapes of wax crayons. When they encounter crayons, they could reject them.

*Myth #7: Free writing builds confidence. The Truth:* Free writing, in which the child draws letters and numbers any way they wish, builds inefficient habits that are difficult to remediate. Teaching letter formation at an appropriate age is more beneficial for students.

*Myth# 8: All crayons are the same. The Truth:* Shape, length, and design can transform grasp and control.

*Myth #9: Start teaching when children show interest in letters. The Truth:* Start teaching handwriting when children have the motor, sensory, attentional, and cognitive-perceptual skills to succeed.

*Myth #10: Lefties will always be sloppy writers. The Truth:* Targeted teaching can eliminate most issues.