Writing and Pre-Writing Lessons

For the At-Home Learner

1. Tracing: Whether its tracing lines, shapes, letters, or words, tracing is an important first step and fine motor requirement to being able to write!

2. Copy the Model: After a student can trace lines, shapes, and letters; the next step is to have them use the model to then independently write or draw their own!

3. Transcribe: After a student can copy a model independently, the next step is to be able to transcribe letters without a model! So they may hear what they are supposed to write during a read aloud and then try to write it themselves!

   a. It's great if you can start by having them copy more than just one letter or word so if you're working on writing letters independently give them a few letters to copy and then try doing the exact same thing as a listen and write (where they can't see the model, but you say the letters instead)

4. Daily Writing Prompts: These can be super a super fun way to connect with your at-home learner! Try having both of you complete the writing prompt and then sharing what you wrote! For learners who might not be at the writing prompt stage yet, that's okay, try reading a book together instead! Word and vocabulary exposure is an important pre-writing requirement!

5. Draw or color pictures together! The fine-motor dexterity of holding the utensil (pencil, crayon, marker, etc.) can help students prepare for writing down the road!

6. Write letters or notes to loved ones! This is a great way to practice writing skills and stay connected! Bonus: You can also be teaching about how to address an envelope and use the US Postal System!

7. Write in Shaving Cream: This is my most favorite writing activity to do with students from very little to my oldest students! You can write letters in the foam, draw shapes or pictures and so much more! Bonus: Not only are you working on writing skills, but you are also providing a fun sensory activity for our learners who might need some assistance in finding safe and appropriate ways to obtain sensory input or reduce other sensations!