

Move'in Printing Output Speed Test

Printing is a foundation for literacy. Children who know how to subconsciously make strokes, shapes, letters and numbers, free their conscious mind up to focus on spelling, math, or sentence composition. Slow printers are forced to use much of their brain power on how to make their letters and numbers, with little left for spelling the word, or doing the math problem. Children who know how to print are earlier readers, as they can recognize letters that they have learned how to print. Children whose parents help them learn to print, will become fast at printing, and more likely to perform better in all subjects.

Printing Output Speed Test: ask your child to copy print from an age appropriate book onto a piece of paper for two minutes. Ask them to count the number of letters they produced in two minutes, and divide by two for their letters per minute speed. Compare your child's speed to chart below to determine their grade equivalent for printing output speed.

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Letter per min.	8.5	18.9	33.9	47.3	63.2	72.7	84.7	99.9	115.2	117.6

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If your child's printing output speed performance is not equivalent to their grade, try the [Move'in Program](#) to help improve your child's printing output quality and quantity! Children need to know how to make strokes and shapes, prior to learning to print letters and numbers. Knowing directions such as up, down, left, right, and slant are important spatial concepts to learn. Understanding how many sides to a shape or letter is also important, and helps the child to understand space. Being able to "see" the shape or letter in their mind's eye is essential if they are to reproduce the shape or letter from memory. When teaching children to print, the following steps can be helpful in advancing them toward being able to print their name prior to school entry.

- **Start big and work small:** make strokes and shapes in the air, on each other's backs, and on the floor while saying directions e.g. "start at the top and go to the bottom".
- **Count sides:** make sure the child knows how many sides in the shape or letter e.g. triangle has 3 pieces.
- **Start/stop/turn:** cue your child as to where to start, how far to go, and when to turn when making shapes, such as a triangle or square.
- **Rainbow printing:** print strokes or shapes in one color, and have your child print over the top of your strokes and shapes in another color. This is called "rainbow printing" and helps your child to learn how to make strokes and shapes.
- **Close eyes:** ask your child to close their eyes when making the letter to enhance their visual memory for better letter recognition for reading.
- **Dot to dot:** make dots of the strokes or shapes that the child can connect. This teaches your child's eyes to tell their hand what to do when printing.
- **Containers:** give your child a line or box within which to draw their strokes, shapes or letters on to define the space where they are going to print.
- **Printing name:** when your child is able to make strokes and shapes, then they are ready to print their name. Start with large case letters, as they are easier to make because they are all the same size. Practice each letter many times, using rainbow printing or dot to dot techniques, before expecting your child to print their name on their own.

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