

# Emerge



## A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy  
Speech Therapy

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Serving children from birth  
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve  
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech  
Dyspraxia  
Speech Impairments  
Non-communicative Speech  
Oral/Verbal Apraxia  
Language Disorders  
Feeding Difficulties  
Autism/Asperger's/PDD  
Developmental Delay  
Cerebral Palsy  
Sensory Integration  
Disorders  
Sensory Modulation  
Disorders  
Handwriting Impairments  
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent  
Provider

[www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com](http://www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com)

## The Importance of Handwriting Skills to Children



Bonnie Hacker, OT  
Founder / Director

Handwriting skills probably levy more influence on academic success than many people realize. Experts have discovered that children who have trouble with handwriting also demonstrate reduced composition skills such as using simple grammar and less fluid sentences.<sup>1,2</sup> Consequently, handwriting difficulties affect overall academic achievement.<sup>3</sup> Children develop the mindset that they cannot write, and self-esteem is affected.<sup>4</sup>

The foundations of handwriting skills should develop before children reach school age, but focused training can help children of almost any age. Some fine motor skill milestones related to handwriting are:

### Ages 1 to 2:

- Scribbles
- Can turn pages 2 or 3 at a time

### Age 3:

- Copies simple shapes, such as a cross or circle
- Holds pencil with thumb and forefinger, rather than fist (50%)<sup>5</sup>

### Age 4:

- Copies a square
- Cuts out simple shapes
- Uses eating utensils skillfully
- Mature pencil grip

### Age 5:

- Hand preference is established
- Draws a variety of recognizable pictures
- Can copy a triangle
- Writes his or her name
- Colors within lines



The foundations for  
handwriting skills are  
learned at home and at a  
very young age.

Usually, the stumbling blocks that prevent a child from developing handwriting skills as quickly as his peers are mild and surmountable. Occupational therapy intervention can prove beneficial for children as young as three. Occupational therapists at Emerge have training in assessment of handwriting challenges and in highly effective training techniques that children actually enjoy. Learning legible and fluent handwriting does not need to cause emotional distress for a child.

At Emerge - A Child's Place, children develop pre-writing and handwriting skills. Tools such as Roll-A-Dough® letters and the Stamp and See Screen® turn essential learning into highly effective, multi-sensory play. As a child progresses into actual writing, assessment and fine-tuning of essentials such as posture, grip, paper placement, etc go a long way toward achieving life-long handwriting skills.<sup>7,8</sup> The research-based approach used at Emerge recognizes natural learning progression patterns and teaches skills along those natural patterns. For instance, research suggests that children naturally write capital letters before writing lowercase letters, so challenged children respond better when allowed to master capitals before being asked to write the lowercase letters.<sup>8</sup>



Please tell parents about Emerge - A Child's Place  
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish

### Affordable Care at Emerge - A Child's Place

Many parents find that insurance coverage for pediatric occupational or speech therapy is often limited. In these cases, Emerge has even more to offer in addition to uncompromising quality of care and excellent facilities. The rates at Emerge are designed with the knowledge that many families pay for these services from private funds. Even though the quality of care at Emerge is at the highest levels, you will find the fees at Emerge to be the most affordable.

## References

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