

At The Shooting Stars Program, we have adopted The Letter People Curriculum within our classrooms. The Letter People is a comprehensive preschool program which coincides with The State of Maine Learning Results for early Childhood Education.

The Letter People philosophy believes children learn best by doing and being active participants in their learning. The Letter People is a published researched based curriculum that targets development skills across literacy, math, science, social studies, health and personal social development.



The program designs its curriculum around a Letter People Puppet. There is one puppet for each letter of the alphabet who has a unique and engaging personality that motivates children to learn new skills through music, movement and creative art.

The Letter People stimulate the child's imaginative and creative powers. They get children to respond because they are friends and language partners. The engaging, motivating nature of The Letter people draws the child into the learning process and makes it fun!



What and how The Letter People help children to learn reflects what we know from research about effective early childhood educational programs:

- ★ Learning proceeds from prior knowledge
- ★ Learning of concepts, skills and strategies occurs best in context rather than isolation.
- ★ Play can enhance learning.
- ★ Literacy development requires that young children have extensive experiences in using oral language and seeing printed language.
- ★ Healthy social development is a key to successful learning.

Taken together, these points make clear that the curriculum engages children in activities that capitalize on their natural curiosity and motivate them to wonder, observe, question and explore.

For more information visit [www.abramslearningtrends.com](http://www.abramslearningtrends.com)



Handwriting fluency is fundamental to learning because children think and write at the same time. When we teach children to write, we also teach them how to express themselves. If they struggle to form their letters, their ability to express themselves will suffer.

Handwriting without Tears has designed a curriculum specific to preschool age development called “Get Set for School.” This approach helps preschoolers become familiar with letter /number identification and proper hand positioning through fun multi-sensory activities.

This readiness curriculum includes 3 complete programs.

- ★ Readiness and Writing
- ★ Language and Literacy
- ★ Numbers and Math



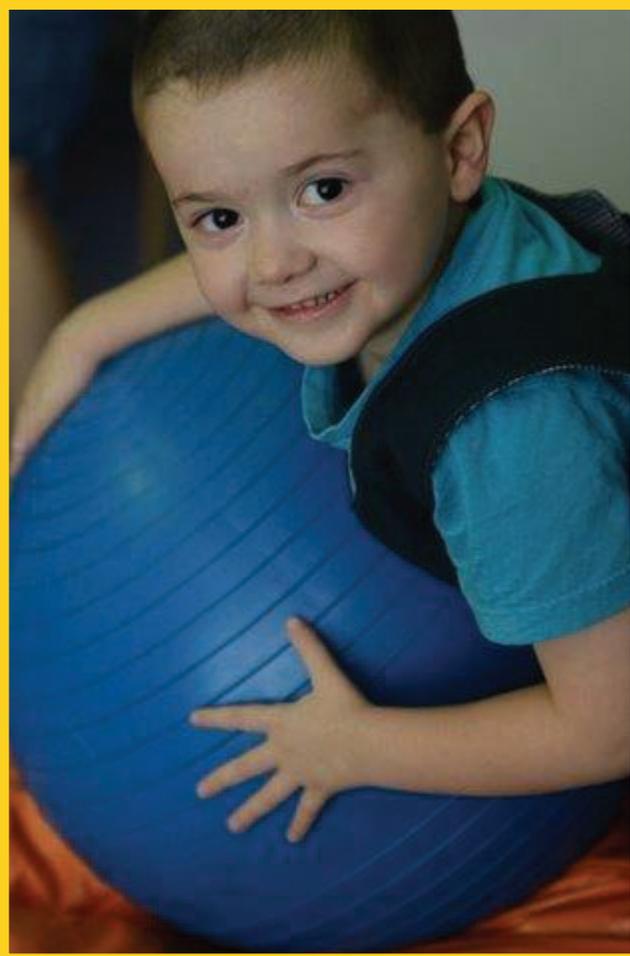
Activities are designed with hands-on materials using such items as wood pieces to shape letters/number, roll-a-dough letters, stamp and see screens, ABC/123 touch and flip cards and much more. This hands on approach will provide children with a strong foundation for academic success. For more information visit the Handwriting Without Tears program on-line at [www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com) .



Sensorimotor Early Childhood Themes

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The Shooting Stars Program has adopted the Ready S.E.T. Go! preschool curriculum which is a program that integrates sensory integration into daily curriculum. Sensory integration activities develop the bodies neurological system which better prepares children to learn. Activities with this program work from top to bottom...head to toes. When all activities

Sensory Integration is the organization of sensory input for use. The use may be a perception of the body or world or an adaptive response, learning process or development of some neural function. All sensory processes take place at an unconscious level. All sensory systems work together to help us learn, attend, read, write, do math and participate in daily activities.



The Ready S.E.T. Go program sequences 7 activities that involve sensory integration. The goal is that after completing these activities, the child will be better able to listen, attend and learn. Activities are created within a classroom theme approach which makes them more enjoyable and motivating for all.

cont.



1. Warm Up: This cues children for group time and introduces the theme to the children. Activities may include: singing, finger plays, action songs, books or flannel board stories

2. Vestibular: structures in the inner ear that detect movement of head position. An over responsive system will be children who have difficulty with this area may have gravitational insecurity, avoid playground equipment or become car sick. An under-responsive system will show signs of difficulty sitting still, or is a thrill seeker  
Activities include: rolling on mat, spinning, swinging, loco motor games, scooter boards, obstacle course

3. Proprioception: receptors in joints, muscles and tendons perceive contraction, stretching and compression. Signs and symptoms of dysfunction may be in-coordination, poor articulation, difficulty grading amount of pressure, coloring with heavy pressure, pushing scissors rips paper, holds pencil too tight, breaks pencil lead  
Activities include carrying, lifting, passing, pushing, pulling heavy objects, jumping, and massage/deep pressure to joints.

4. Balance: incorporates both the vestibular and proprioception input  
Activities may include: balance beam, balance games, yoga poses

5. Eye-Hand Coordination: involves the visual sensory system which effect reading and writing skills. Activities include: throwing, catching, balls, beanbags, balloons and bubbles.

6. Cool Down: purpose is to help children attain a "just right" alertness level for focusing on the fine motor task.  
Activities include: reading stories, relaxation, songs and flannel board stories.

7. Fine Motor is an art project with focus on process and comprehension of theme: cutting, coloring, drawing, gluing and tactile activities.

