Pre-writing shapes

Trace the dotted shapes, then draw your own.

Name _____

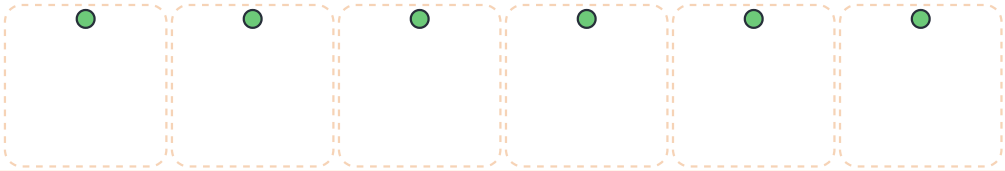
Up and down lines

Start at the green dot at the top and pull down.

Often around age 2



Your turn: start at each green dot



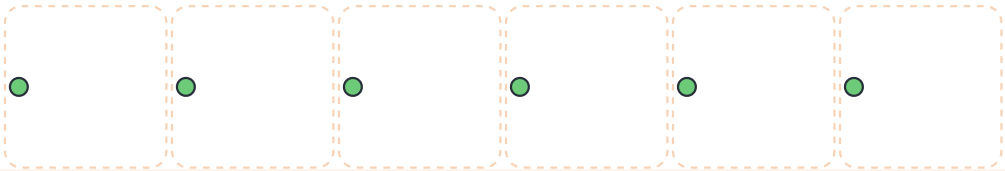
Side to side lines

Start on the left and go across.

Often around age 2½ to 3



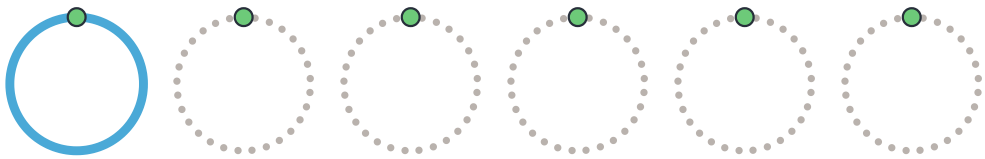
Your turn: start at each green dot



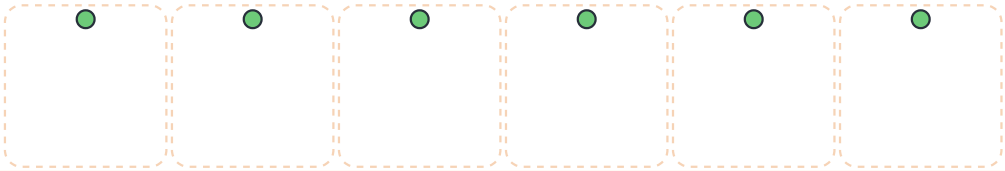
Circles

Start at the top and go round to the left, like the start of a c.

Often around age 3



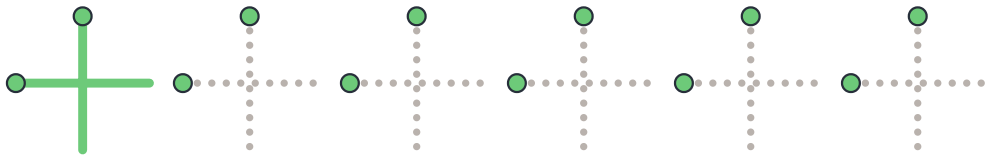
Your turn: start at each green dot



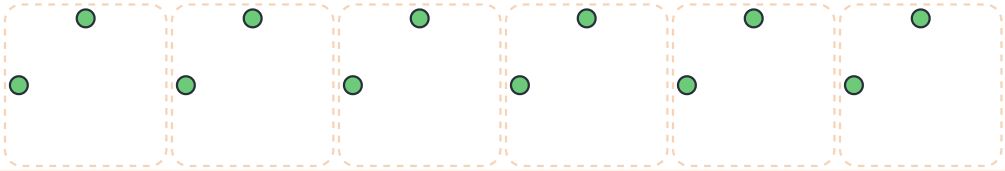
Crosses

Down first, then across from the left.

Often around age 3½ to 4



Your turn: start at each green dot



For grown-ups

These shapes come before letters: most letters are made of lines and circles. The ages are only a rough guide, and children get there in their own time. A few minutes a day is plenty; stop while it's still fun.

Pre-writing shapes

The harder shapes, for when the first page feels easy.

Name _____

Slanting lines

Start at the top each time and slide down.

Often around age 4 to 4½



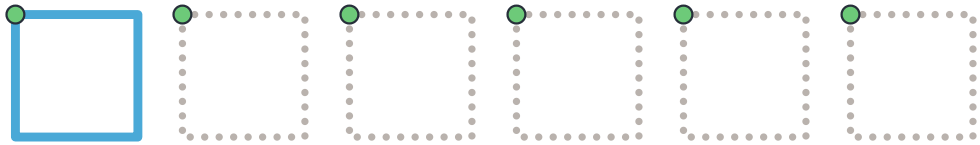
Your turn: start at each green dot



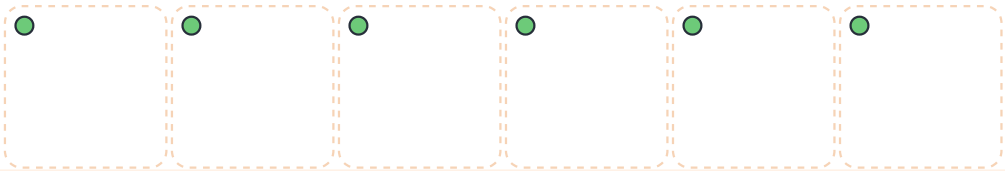
Squares

Start at the top left: down, across, up and back.

Often around age 4 to 4½



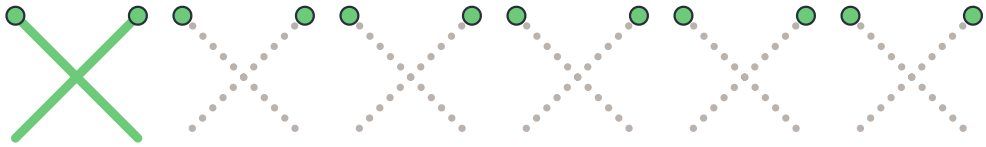
Your turn: start at each green dot



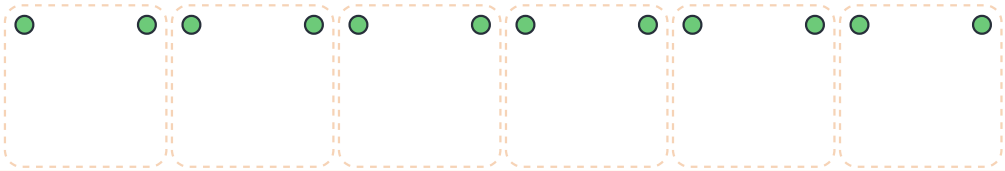
X shapes

Two slanting lines that cross in the middle.

Often around age 4½ to 5



Your turn: start at each green dot



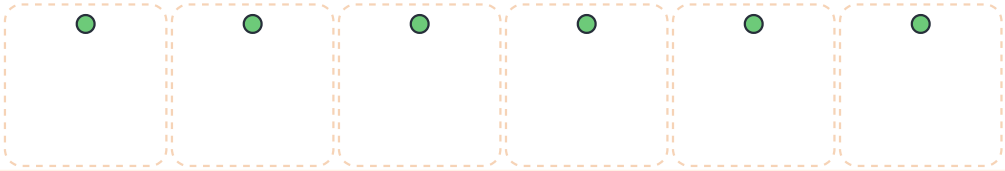
Triangles

Start at the top: down, across, then back up.

Often around age 5



Your turn: start at each green dot



For grown-ups

Slanting lines are the hardest, because both hands and eyes have to cross the middle of the body. If they wobble, practise them big first: in the air, on a steamy window or with a finger in sand.