Developmental Stages of Writing

Pre-Literate		
Stage Description	Sample	
Scribble Stage - starting point any place on page, resembles drawing large circular strokes and random marks that do not resemble print or communicate a message	Dy Do / / Dis	
Symbolic Stage- starting point any place on page, pictures or random strokes/marks with an intended message	"I am happy."	
Directional Scribble - scribble left to right direction, linear, intended as writing that communicates a meaningful message/idea	"I am playing."	
Symbolic/Mock Letters- letter-like formations, may resemble letters but it isn't intentional, interspersed w/ numbers, spacing rarely present	T75EOW	

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Strings of Letters- long strings of various letters in random order, may go left to right, uses letter sequence perhaps from name, usually uses capital letters, may write same letters in many ways	TAHOZFTX
Groups of letters- groupings of letters with spaces in between to resemble words	W1 50 T CA
Labeling pictures- matching beginning sounds with the letter to label a picture	OF DORF
Environmental Print - copies letters/words from environmental/classroom print, reversals common, uses a variety of resources to facilitate writing	CLOCK MOM
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Transitional,		
Letter/Word Representation-uses first letter sound of word	(I went home.)	
to represent entire word, uses letter sound relationships	→ VV	
First/Last Letter Representation- word represented by first and last letter sound	(cat)	
Medial Letter Sounds- words spelled phonetically using BME sounds, attempts medial vowels, uses some known words,	MI CAT IS BON	
more conventionally spelled words, one letter may represent one syllable, attempts to use word spacing, writing is readable	(My cat is brown.)	

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Beginning Phrase Writing- using all of the above skills to construct phrases that convey a message connected to their illustration	T Pla Wif my
Sentence Writing- Construction of words into sentence formation, maybe multiple sentences, writing is readable, may use punctuation, known words spelled correctly, topic focused, BME with detail	I play with my frind. We like to jump rop!
Six Traits of Writing- Students use Six Traits of Writing (Conventions, Organization, Voice, Ideas, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency)	J 1