

# Little Plane Learns to Write

## The 2018 CLEL Bell Award Book for WRITE



by Stephen Savage  
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Little Plane loves flight school where he and the other planes are learning to write in the sky. His arcs and dives are excellent, but he can't seem to get the hang of loopity-loops. Finally, tracing the round shape of the moon inspires Little Plane to write the perfect loopity-loops. Drawing circles, arcs, and lines helps children learn to form letters, just like Little Plane.

### Activity Ideas for *Little Plane Learns to Write*:

- In the book, Little Plane writes words in the sky. Children will enjoy writing in different “cloudy” substances like shaving cream, blobs of fingerpaint, or even pudding. Have younger children use their pointer fingers to make lines, arcs, and circles; help older children write the letters of their names. To make a more lasting project, combine equal amounts of shaving cream and white school glue to make a paint that stays puffy when dry. Spread the mixture on a thick sheet of colored paper and let children draw designs. Once it dries, display their cloud writing. Making shapes and designs with their fingers helps children practice the lines and curves necessary for writing.
- The end papers of *Little Plane Learns to Write* feature the entire alphabet. Help a child trace the letters of the alphabet while you sing the ABC song together. Singing the names of the letters while tracing them helps children connect meaning to the letters on the page.
- Little Plane moves as he practices his letters. Encourage children to move their bodies to practice making arcs, dives, and loopity-loops. Then have them try to form some of the easier letters with their bodies: like “L,” “V” and “O.” Just like *Little Plane*, children need practice to perfect writing. Experiencing writing in a multisensory activity helps them coordinate their minds and bodies in preparation to write.

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