

Teaching Handwriting

1. Begin handwriting instruction with a brief hand warm-up activity. Examples include open and closing fists, walk fingers up and down pencil, stress ball squeezes, and/or finger push-ups. (For more activities see the fine motor skills handout).
2. Letters should be grouped according to how they are formed. *Note: Teach the letters in isolation. Once a letter has been introduced in isolation the child can focus on forming it correctly in written work. Once the correct letter formation has been mastered in daily work you then can choose the next letter to introduce in isolation.*

Lower Case Manuscript Groups:

Tall line down:

l – make a tall line down

t – make a tall line down then make a sleeping line across the middle

h – make a tall line down, climb up to the middle line then make a hill

b – make a tall line down, climb up to the middle line then make a half circle in front

k – make a tall line down, lift pencil, start at the middle line, slide in, kiss the line then slide down to the bottom line.

f – make a rainbow with a tall line down, lift the pencil, make a sleeping line across at the middle line

Short line down:

i – make a short line down, make a floating dot at the top

j – make a short line down, continue into the basement then make a fish hook, make a floating dot at the top

p – make a short line down into basement, climb up to middle line then make a half circle in front

r – make a short line down, climb to the middle line then make a hill top

n – make a short line down, climb up to the middle line and make a hill

m – make a short line down, climb up to the middle line, make a hill, climb up to the middle line and make another hill

u – make a short line down, dig a hole up to the middle line then make a short line down

C curve:

c – make a c curve

a – make a c curve, climb up to the middle line, make a short line down

d – make a c curve, climb up to the top line, make a tall line down

g – make a c curve, climb up to the middle line, make a line into the basement, then make a fish hook

q – make a c curve, climb up to the middle line then continue into the basement and dig a hole up

o – make a c curve then close the circle

s – make a small c curve then make a backward c curve

Sliding line:

v – start at the middle line and make a sliding line down, then make a sliding line up to the middle line

w – start at the middle line and make a sliding line down, make a sliding line up to the middle line, make another sliding line down, make another sliding line up to the middle line

x – start at the middle line and make a sliding line down, lift pencil, start at the middle line and make a backwards sliding line that crosses the middle of the first line

y – start at the middle line and make a sliding line, lift pencil, start at the middle line and make a backwards sliding line that “kisses” the bottom of the first line then continues into the basement

Sleeping line

e – make a sleeping line across, then make a c curve

z – make a sleeping line, make a backward sliding line, then another sleeping line