

Cursive handwriting program Loops and Groups: (cursive is taught in second and third grade)

Lower case:

Clock Climbers (c, a, d, g, q)

Kite Strings (i, u, w, t, j, p, r, s, o)

Loop Group (e, l, h, k, b, f)

Hills and Valleys (n, m, v, y, x, z)

Upper case:

Slim 7's (P, R, B, H, K) Umbrella Top (C, E, A)

Eggs (O, Q) High Hills (N, M)

Deep Valleys (U, V, Y) Sneaky Snake Tops (T, F)

Half Hearts (W, X) Left Swingers (I, J)

Fat Bellies (G, S, L, D) Zip (Z)

It is important to watch how your child is forming his/her letters to ensure that they are using the correct approach and to prevent incorrect habits. For example, printed letters always start at the top. If a child uses an incorrect approach it can negatively affect fluency, spacing, and legibility. Once a child has learned an incorrect approach to letter formation, it is extremely hard to break the habit.

The best way to teach handwriting is to use a multisensory approach in frequent short sessions. This writing technique focuses on seeing, hearing, and feeling the movement patterns by incorporating several senses to increase the number of neural connections in the brain and make the learning more automatic (i.e., correct approach to letter formation).