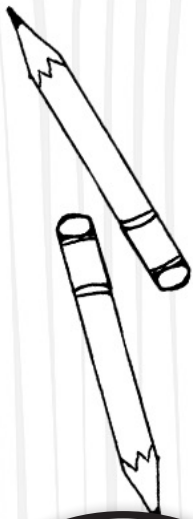


Free Next Steps Pack

ENGLISH CURSIVE



Grade
2

Handwriting Without Tears®
by Learning Without Tears

Name: _____

Cursive Kickoff

bridge New York

The Correct Grip

The standard way for children to hold their pencil is illustrated below. If you prefer a different grip, such as tripod or quadropod, alter your grip for classroom demonstration.

Tripod Grip
Standard grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index finger**. Pencil rests on middle finger.

Quadropod Grip
Alternate grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index and middle fingers**. Pencil rests on ring finger.

A Note About Pencil Size
Start by using golf-size pencils. As children gain handwriting experience, their control will improve and children gain more control in first grade, they will be ready for a standard-size pencil.

Flip the Pencil Trick

Cursive Lowercase

a b c d e f g h
i j k l m n o p q
r s t u v w x y z

© 2020 Learning Without Tears

Introduction Letter

Dear Friends,

Learning Without Tears provides engaging activities and materials to help your students learn in any setting. This Next Steps Pack supports learning at home for students who are ready to progress to cursive handwriting. Beginning with a review of print letters, these pages progress through skills needed to introduce cursive.

This pack uses strategies from Handwriting Without Tears' developmentally based curriculum that works for children of all learning styles. The resources have instructions and are easy to use for families and caregivers.

These pages were created to support at-home handwriting practice. Included are:

- Formation charts for capital letters, lowercase letters, and numbers so you'll know the language and stroke sequence to use to help your student
- Paper placement, pencil and grip activities to set your student up for success
- Capital and lowercase letter practice pages
- Writing activities to practice writing on double lines

We are committed to helping you and your students have continued handwriting success with these practice activities. Reach out if you have questions for us!

Customerservice@LWTears.com or **888.983.8409**

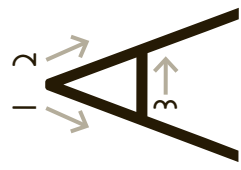
Happy Handwriting!



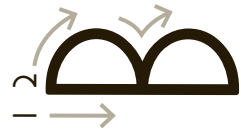
For more information about free resources to support learning at home, go to **LWTears.com/families**.

Capital Letter Formation Chart

Capitals are formed with 4 strokes: Big Lines, Little Lines, Big Curves, and Little Curves.
Use this step-by-step language to help your child learn the letter formation for capitals.
The stroke sequence is numbered for each letter.



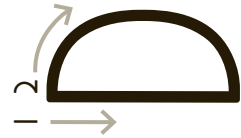
Big Line
Big Line
Little Line



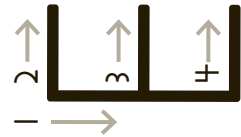
Big Line
Little Curve
Little Curve



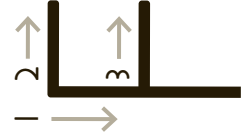
Big Curve



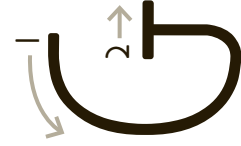
Big Line
Big Curve



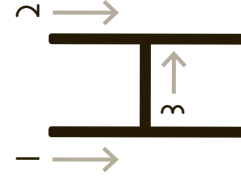
Big Line
Little Line
Little Line
Little Line



Big Line
Little Line
Little Line



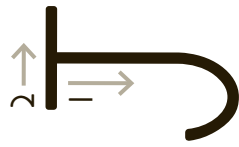
Big Curve
Little Line
Little Line



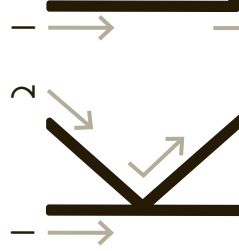
Big Line
Big Line
Little Line



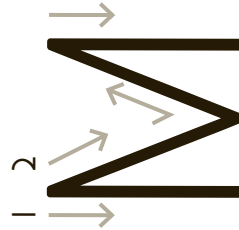
Big Line
Little Line
Little Line



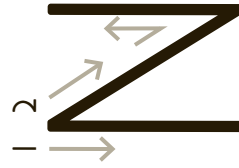
Big Line
Turn
Little Line



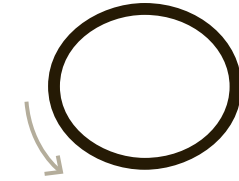
Big Line
Little Line
Little Line



Big Line
Little Line



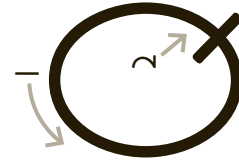
Big Line
Big Line
Big Line
Big Line



Big Line
Big Line
Big Line



Big Curve
Big Curve



Big Line
Little Curve



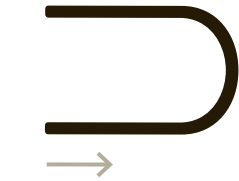
Big Curve
Big Curve
Little Line



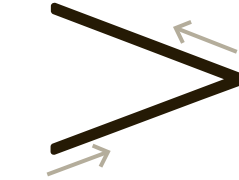
Little Curve
Little Curve



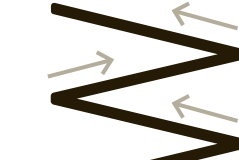
Big Line
Little Line



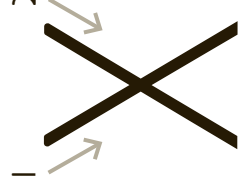
Big Line
Turn
Big Line



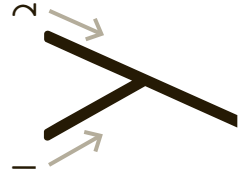
Big Line
Big Line



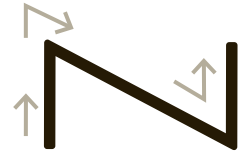
Big Line
Big Line
Big Line
Big Line



Big Line
Big Line




Little Line
Big Line





Little Line
Big Line
Little Line

Lowercase Formation Chart


Lowercase letters are continuous stroke so you rarely lift up the pencil before you are done! Use the step-by-step language to help your child learn the letter formation language.



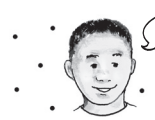
Magic c up like a bump back down bump

dive down swim up and over down




dive down swim up and over around bump




Dots for you! dot

down bump




Magic c

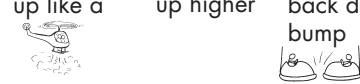


Dots for you! dot


down turn



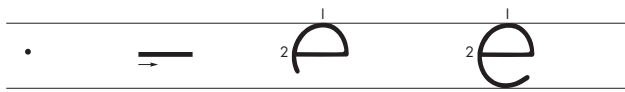

Magic c up like a up higher back down bump



down bump the line kick! slide away





start little line up and around stop


Start at the top!

down bump the line






At first, curve up. Then, go straight down.



up down bump the line cross




start with n swim up and over down (m has two humps)

Magic c up like a back down turn


dive down swim up and over down (n has one hump)




Lowercase Formation Chart




Magic c keep on going stop



bump
down, travel, up back down bump




dive down




swim up and over


around bump




slide down slide up




Magic c bump up like a back down U turn




slide down and up slide down and up




dive down




swim up and over




slide down slide down



little Magic c little Magic c turn down curve around



slide down slide down



Start at the top!

Directions for crossing †:
Left-handed Right-handed

down bump the line cross



go across slide down go across

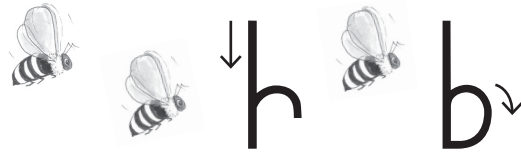
Letter Stories

Fun stories help children remember letters that are a bit tricky.

b

Honeybee

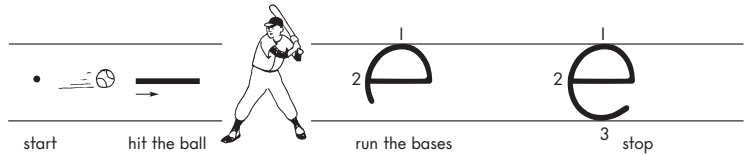
Say, "Let's make letter **h**. Now let's make another **h**. I have a surprise. This is an **h** for a honeybee." Turn **h** into **b**.



e

Run the Bases

Place the pencil on the dot. Say, "Batter up to bat. Here comes the pitch. Hit the ball, wait, then run the bases: first, second, third, stop! It's not a home run."



f

Fire Hose Squirts

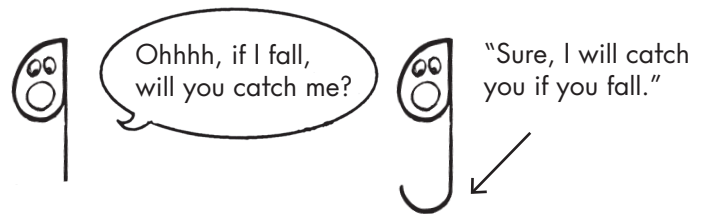
Say, "f is like water squirting out of a fire hose. It goes up and then falls down."



g

If George Falls

Say, "Inside **g** lives a little man named George (draw a little face in **g**). He says, 'Ohhhh, if I fall, will you catch me?' Sure, I will catch you (turn the **g** to catch George) if you fall."



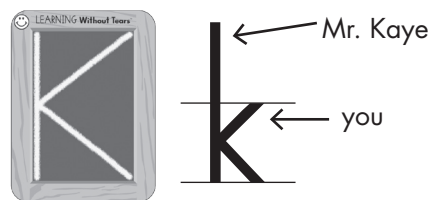
k

Karate K

Say, "The Big Line is Mr. Kaye, your karate teacher. He wants you to show him your kick."

K: Put your chalk in the corner. That's you. Now kick Mr. Kaye. Hiiii-ya. That's the karate **K**.

k: Put the pencil on the line. That's you. Now kick Mr. Kaye. Hiiii-ya. That's the karate **k**."



Letter Stories

m Stinky m

Say, "If **m** has a big gap, people will throw trash in the gap. Don't make a big gap. Make the gap so little, there is only room for an upside down chocolate kiss."



q U-Turn

Say, "The letter **q** is followed by **u**. Think of quiet, quit, quibble, quaint, etc. At the bottom of **q**, stop and make a U-turn."



S Stop, Drop & Roll with S

Start **s** with a little **c**. Go over and say hello to the smiley face. Say, "What do you do if your clothes catch on fire? You stop, drop, and roll!"



Say hello to the smiley face.



Stop, drop, and roll.

Tt T Is Tall, t Is Tall But...

Say, "Look at me. I can make capital **T**. Look at me. I can make lowercase **t**. Capital **T** is tall. Lowercase **t** is tall, but it's crossed lower. Capital **T** and lowercase **t** are both tall."



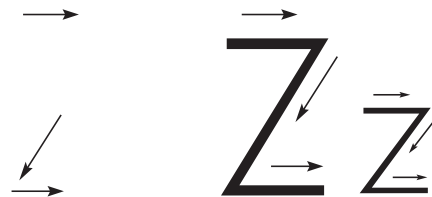
Z Z Chase

Say, "Left hand says, 'I'm going to chase you.'" Right hand picks up the pencil and runs across the page.

Left hand says, "I'm kidding! Come back." Right hand slides back down toward the left hand.

Left hand says, "Ha! I'm going to chase you." Right hand runs back across."

(This story is for right-handers with z reversal problems, but can be adapted for lefties.)

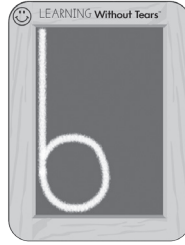


Number Stories

We use Slate Chalkboards and Grey Blocks to help children learn to form numbers. The smiley face in the upper left helps to orient the child and the frame helps to prevent the child from reversing numbers.



- 1 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 1 makes a Big Line down.
- 1 stops in the corner.



- 6 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 6 is a baby bear.
- 6 goes down to curl up in the corner.
- 6 is hibernating.



- 2 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 2 makes a Big Curve.
- 2 stops in the corner.
- 2 walks away on the bottom.



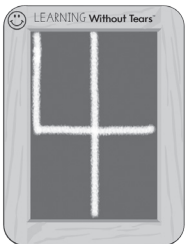
- 7 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 7 makes a Little Line across the top.
- 7 says, "I better slide down."



- 3 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 3 makes a Little Curve to the middle.
- 3 makes another Little Curve to the bottom corner.



- 8 is different.
- 8 doesn't like corners.
- 8 starts at the top center.
- 8 begins with S and then goes home.



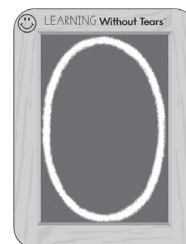
- 4 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 4 makes a Little Line down to the middle.
- 4 walks across the dark night.
- 4 jumps to the top and says, "I did it." (Big Line down)



- 9 is so special.
- 9 has its own corner.
- 9 makes a Little Curve and goes up to the corner.
- 9 makes a Big Line down.



- 5 starts in the Starting Corner.**
- 5 makes a Little Line down to the middle. It starts to rain.
- 5 makes a Little Curve around.
- 5 puts a Little Line on top to stop the rain.



- 10** uses two places.
- 1** comes first.
- 0** is next.
- 0** starts at the top center.
- 10** is finished.

Preparing for Paper & Pencil

THREE EASY STEPS

When it comes to handwriting, children must be taught everything, including how to sit, position the paper, and hold a pencil. This is the physical approach to handwriting. Sometimes it's the physical approach, not the letters and numbers, that causes a child to struggle with handwriting. Think of it like playing a musical instrument; if you don't know how to position yourself and hold the instrument correctly, how can you play beautiful music? The same is true with writing letters and numbers. The ability to position yourself and hold your pencil correctly has a lot to do with being able to write legibly.

Important questions:

- What affects children's posture?
- How should the paper be placed?
- What is the secret to a good pencil grip?

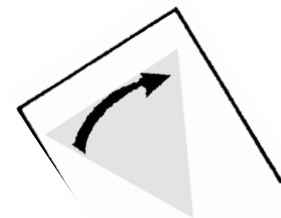
STEP 1 – POSTURE

Does the furniture fit? The right size and style of chair and desk affect school performance. Children don't come in a standard size. Check that every child can sit with feet flat on the floor and arms resting comfortably. Children who sit on their feet often will lose stability in their upper torso. On the following page, we show you how good posture can be fun. We have a secret for getting children to stop sitting on their feet.



STEP 2 – PAPER PLACEMENT

There's a misconception that people should slant their paper to make slanted writing. Not true. In fact, we slant paper so that it fits the natural arc of the forearm. Children who slant their papers properly can write faster because the arm moves naturally with the paper.



STEP 3 – GRASPING GRIP

The most important thing to understand about pencil grip is it doesn't develop naturally—it is learned. Based on our years of experience helping children, we developed our own theories about how to develop good pencil grip habits effectively. Because children are born imitators, demonstration will lead to success.

On the next few pages, you will find fun strategies to help you teach posture, paper, and pencil skills.

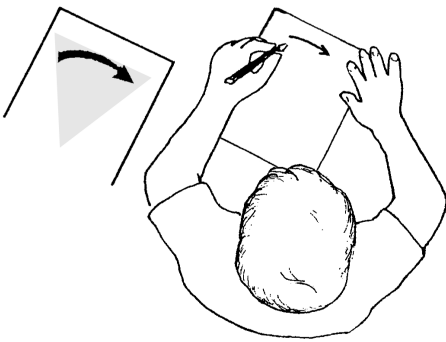


Paper Placement & Pencil Grip

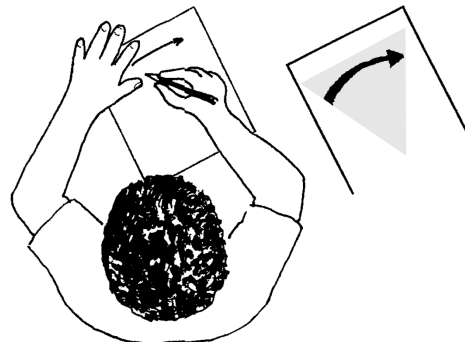
PLACE THE PAPER

How do you position paper correctly? Some children may lean over in an awkward position to write. Children who put their paper in front of them and slant it properly can write more efficiently because they position their arms naturally with the paper. You need to teach them how to place their papers appropriately. Have your students turn to p. 6 in *Kick Start Kindergarten*, and teach them how to slant their papers for their handedness.

Children who are able to print sentences across the page are ready to tilt the paper at a slight angle to follow the natural arc of the writing hand. The correct way to tilt the paper is easy to remember (see illustrations below). For right-handed children, put the right corner higher; for left-handed children, put the left corner higher. The writing hand is below the line of writing. This practice encourages a correct, neutral wrist position.



Left-Handed Students



Right-Handed Students

LOOKING OUT FOR LEFTIES

When writing, we typically travel from top to bottom and left to right. At times, left-handed children may choose to cross letters by pulling their writing hand from right to left. This is natural. Model it for them in their student editions for the letters below.

Mark arrows → for right-handed students. Mark arrows ← for left-handed students.

A E F G H I J T - f †

The Correct Grip

The standard way for children to hold their pencil is illustrated below. If you write using a grip that is different than tripod or quadropod, alter your grip for classroom demonstration.

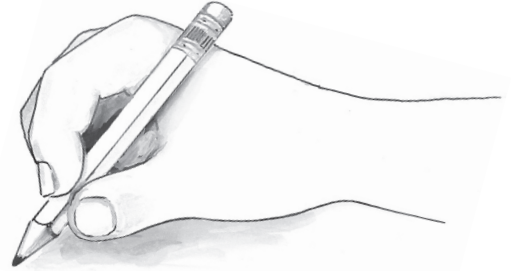
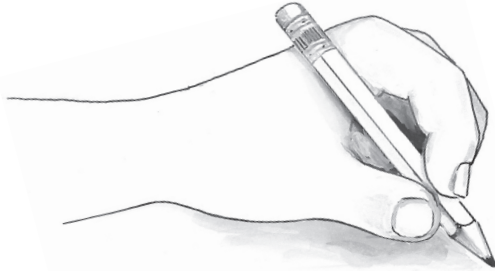
Tripod Grip

Standard grip:

Hold pencil with

thumb + index finger.

Pencil rests on middle finger.

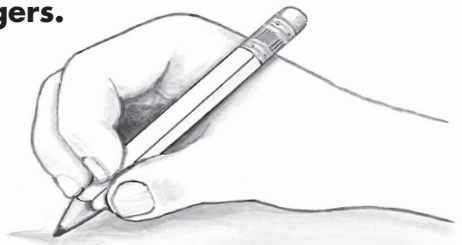


Quadropod Grip

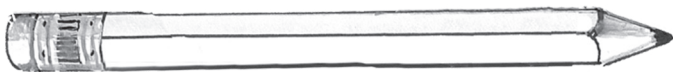
Alternate grip: Hold pencil with

thumb + index and middle fingers.

Pencil rests on ring finger.



A Note About Pencil Size

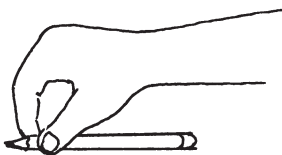


Start by using golf-size pencils. As children gain handwriting experience, their control will improve. Typically, as children gain more control in first grade, they will be ready for a standard-size pencil.

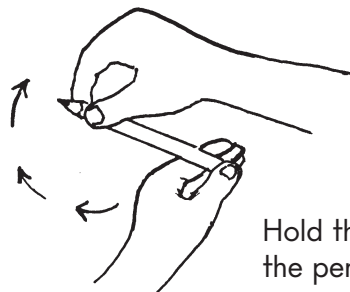
Flip the Pencil Trick

Here is another method that someone introduced to us at a workshop. It's such fun that we love to share it.

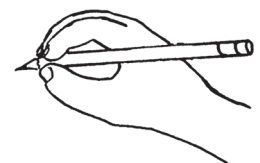
Children like to do it and it puts the pencil in the correct position. (Illustrated for right-handed students.)



Place pencil on table pointing away from you. Pinch the pencil on the paint where the paint meets the wood.



Hold the eraser and twirl the pencil around.



Voilà!
Correct grip.

Magic c Letter Group – c, a, d, and g

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, “your turn” and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Magic c Letter Group



Magic c
bump the line

Magic c
bump the line
up like a helicopter
bump
back down
bump
travel away

Magic c
bump the line
up like a helicopter
up higher
slide down
bump
travel away

Magic c
bump the line
up like a helicopter
bump
back down
turn
aim for corner
travel away

Student Imitation:



Student Practice:



Letter Group with e, l, and f

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Letter Group with e, l, and f



travel then up
bump
turn
down
stay on your side
bump
travel away



travel then up
turn
down
stay on your side
bump
travel away



travel then up
turn
down
U-turn
aim for corner
travel away

Student Imitation:



Student Practice:



Letter Group with h, t, and p

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, “your turn” and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Letter Group with h, t, and p

h

travel
up like a helicopter
slide down
bump
climb back up
and over
and down
bump
travel away

t

travel
up like a helicopter
slide down
bump
travel away
cross

p

travel up
bump
slide down
climb back up
and over
and around
bump
travel away

Student Imitation:

Student Practice:

Letter Group with k, r, and s

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Letter Group with k, r, and s

k

travel
up like a helicopter
slide down
bump
climb back up
over
and around
kick!
slide down
travel away

r

travel up
bump
smile
down
bump
travel away

s

straight jet takeoff
bump
down
make a J-turn
bump
travel away

Student Imitation:

Student Practice:

Letter Group with m and n

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Letter Group with m and n



travel
up and over
down
up and over
down
again
travel away



travel
up and over
down
again
travel away

Student Imitation:



Student Practice:




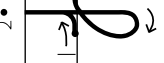


Letter Group with u, y, i, and j

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Letter Group with u, y, j, and i

			
down travel up bump back down bump travel away	down travel up bump back down turn aim for corner travel away	travel up bump back down bump travel away dot	travel up bump back down turn aim for corner travel away dot

Student Imitation:

Student Practice:

Letter Group with x, q, and z

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Letter Group with x, q, and z



climb up
slide down
travel away
cross



Magic c
bump the line
up like a helicopter
bump
back down
U-turn
aim for corner
travel away



make your half
start another half
down
turn
aim for corner
travel away

Student Imitation:

Student Practice:

Mystery Letter Game with cc



I'll help you change the second c into a, d, or g.

Directions

1. With colored pencil or pen, trace over the model cc and wait at the end.
2. Listen. Your teacher will randomly call out a, d, or g.
3. Change the second one into the letter that your teacher calls out.
4. Do one row a day.

cc cc cc cc

cc cc cc cc

cc cc cc cc

cc cc cc cc

cc cc cc cc

cc cc cc cc

Cursive Capitals Formation Chart

C Magic C
 down up
 back down

1 P B
 ready up
 down around
 around again

J L D
 down flip
 small turn over
 curve up
 end

C E
 c in the air c again

1 J F
 ready J-turn
 down cross

1 H H
 ready down
 down up
 over

C A
 curve up down
 J-turn end

C G J
 curve up straight
 down small
 J-turn end

P F L
 start with a down
 in the air small turn flip
 over

1 n m
 ready up
 down over
 down again

1 n
 ready up
 down over
 down

1 P
 ready up
 down around

Q or Z Z
 half heart small
 flip
 over

1 P R
 ready up
 down around
 slide
 down

1 J
 ready J-turn
 down

U U
 down back
 travel down
 up

V
 slide up
 down end

X
 slide cross
 down down

U Y Y
 down back
 travel down
 up small
 J-turn end

U W W
 down again
 travel end
 up

Z Z Z
 half up
 heart over
 down small
 J-turn end

Capital Connections

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

These capitals connect. Copy the capitals and connect to c.

Ac Cc Ec Jc Kc Lc Mc

Nc Zc Rc Uc Yc Zc

These capitals do not connect. Copy.

B D F G H I O

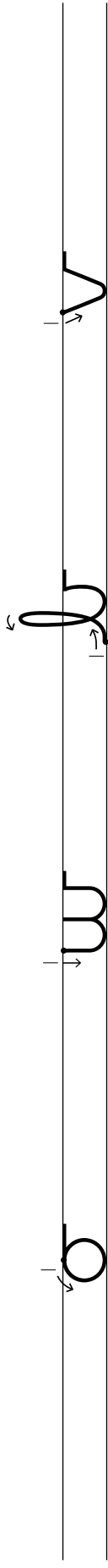
P S J V W X

Tow Truck Letters – σ , ω , \mathcal{L} , and ν

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, “your turn” and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Tow Truck Letter Group



Magic c
keep on going
circle around
end with a tow

down and up
down and up
end with a tow

start with an l
travel and up
end with a tow

slide down
and up
end with a tow

Student Imitation:

Two horizontal lines for student imitation practice, each with a starting dot on the top line.

Student Practice:

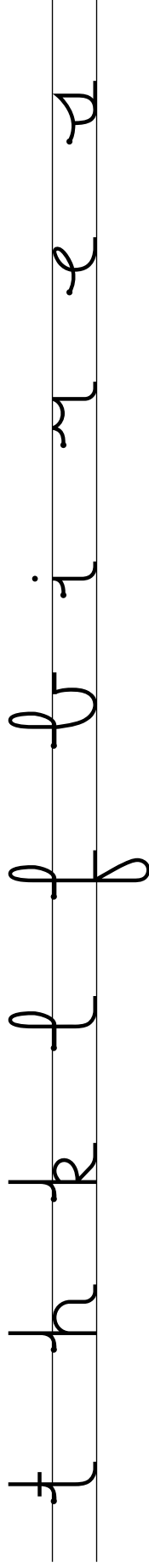
Two horizontal lines for student practice, each with a starting dot on the top line.

Cranked Up Letters

Dear Families,

Use the activity below to practice this group of letters. Simply demonstrate one letter at a time through myLWT tools or on your whiteboard. Be sure to say the directions out loud while you model the letter. Then say to the students, "your turn" and your students will imitate the letter on the top row. Then, students will practice on their own with teacher monitoring. For more information about our handwriting curriculum, visit LWTears.com.

Cranked Up Letters



Student Imitation:



Student Practice:



Connections Mini Quiz...

Write the connection. Circle whether it was easy or tricky.

o r _____ easy tricky a r _____ easy tricky

o s _____ easy tricky b i _____ easy tricky

o g _____ easy tricky n g _____ easy tricky

w h _____ easy tricky v e _____ easy tricky

Answers:

o r - tricky, a r - easy, i a - easy, o a - tricky, b i - tricky, a i - easy, o g - easy, n g - tricky, t h - easy, w h - tricky, v e - tricky, , r e - easy

Connections Mini Quiz...

Write the connection. Circle whether it was easy or tricky.

o r _____ easy tricky a r _____ easy tricky

o s _____ easy tricky b i _____ easy tricky

o g _____ easy tricky n g _____ easy tricky

w h _____ easy tricky v e _____ easy tricky

Answers:

o r - tricky, a r - easy, i a - easy, o a - tricky, b i - tricky, a i - easy, o g - easy, n g - tricky, t h - easy, w h - tricky, v e - tricky, , r e - easy

Name: _____

i s _____ easy tricky

s i _____ easy tricky

t h _____ easy tricky

r e _____ easy tricky

Name: _____

i s _____ easy tricky

s i _____ easy tricky

t h _____ easy tricky

r e _____ easy tricky

Compound Words

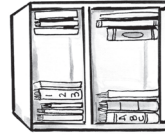
Write the words in cursive.



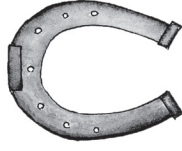
ladybug



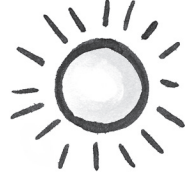
moonlight



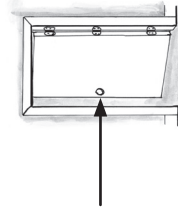
bookcase



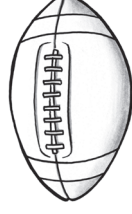
horseshoe



sunshine



doorknob



football



eyebrow



firefly

Name: _____

Date: - -

1. Sunday

5. Thursday

2. Monday

6. Friday

3. Tuesday

7. Saturday

4. Wednesday

Name: _____ Date: - -

Pools and Oceans

Blank writing area for a paragraph or notes, containing six horizontal lines.

Pools

Oceans

Blank writing area for notes under 'Pools', containing six horizontal lines.

Blank writing area for notes under 'Oceans', containing six horizontal lines.

Name: _____ Date: - -

How to Exercise at Home

First,

Next,

Last,

Capital Letters, States, and Names

A

B

C

D

E

F

Copy the states.

Alaska

Delaware

Florida

Copy the names.

Ashley

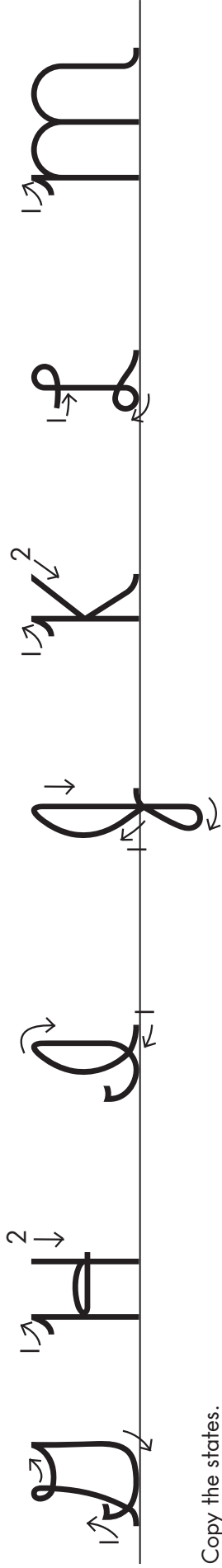
Bella

Carlos

Eric

Write more names.

Capital Letters, States, and Names



Copy the states.

Georgia Iowa Kansas Maine

Copy the names.

Hannah Jose Luke Mia

Write more names.

Capital Letters, States, and Names

N O P R S J

Copy the states.

Nevada

Ohio

Texas

Copy the names.

Pat

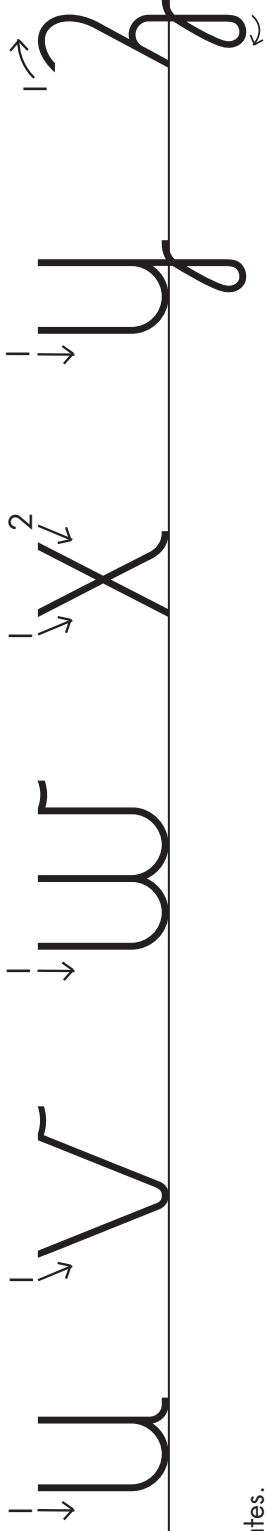
Zwimm

Riley

Sam

Write more names.

Capital Letters, States, and Names



Copy the states.

Utah

Virginia

Washington

Copy the names.

Ursula

Xamdrva

Yuri

Zoe

Write more names.

Thank You Letter

Write your own thank you letter.
Make sure to place a comma after the greeting.

Date

Greeting

Dear

Body

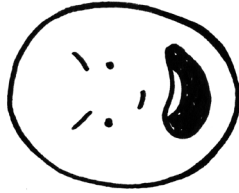
Thank you

Closing

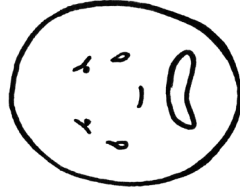
Sincerely,

Signature

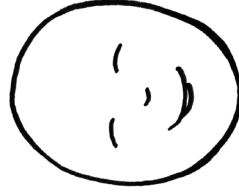
Feelings



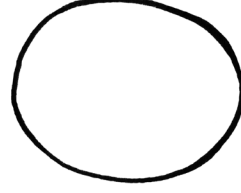
I'm seeing red,



I'm feeling blue,



I'm tickled pink,



And how are you?