

HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GRADES K-2

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HANDWRITING IN DARIEN 2015-16

- Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum K-2 (In 2016 it will move up to Grade Three.)
- Cursive instruction begins in the late winter of Second Grade and continues through Fifth Grade.

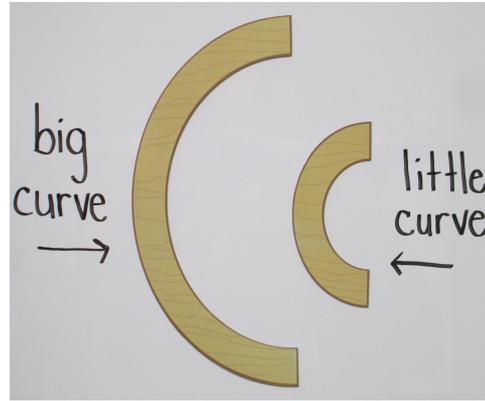
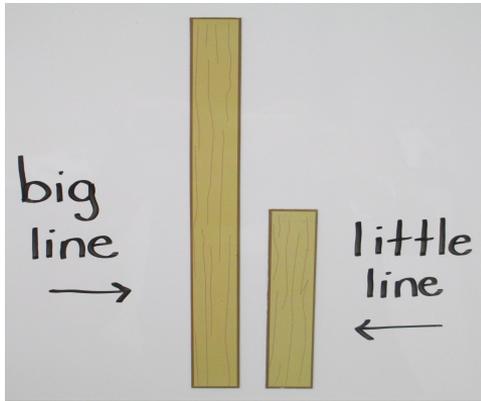
WHY TEACH HANDWRITING IN 2015?

Studies have show:

- A link between handwriting and educational development
- Children learn to read more quickly when they first learn to write by hand
- Handwriting a letter activates increased brain activity in 3 parts of the brain connected to the work of reading and writing as opposed to tracing or typing
- There is a positive connection between handwriting and idea generating
- It is easier to learn information that is handwritten as opposed to typed

WE BEGIN BY TEACHING REPRESENTATIONAL DRAWING

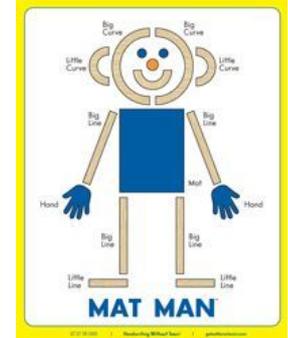
We begin by teaching students the four basic pieces needed for form a person: big line, little line, big curve, little curve.



MAT MAN

We introduce Mat Man with a song.

First we build, then draw and finally personalize.



When children know how to build Mat Man, they can easily approach all drawing the same way.

Once children are able to draw with detail they are often able to write with detail. Detailed illustrators = detailed authors!



WHAT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS TEACH US ABOUT HANDWRITING

Multisensory instruction

Kids need to have their feet on the ground

Kids need to have their arms at a 90 degree angle

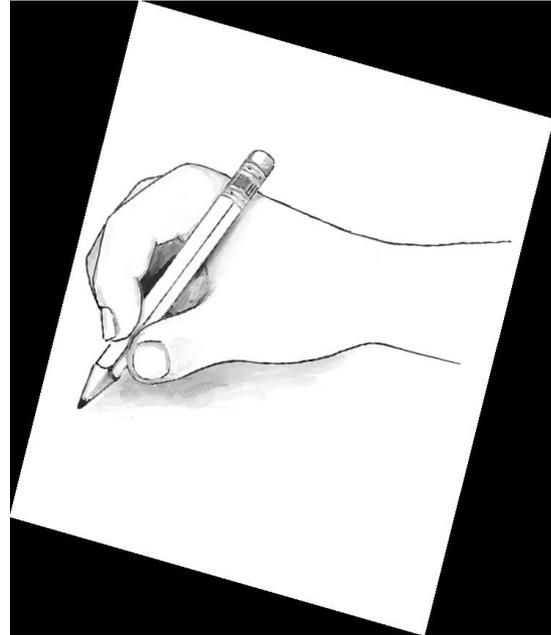
Helper hand holding the paper



PENCIL GRIP

Hold pencil with the thumb and
index finger

Pencil rests on middle finger



TIPS FOR IMPROVING PENCIL GRIP

Encourage small tools- pencils and crayons

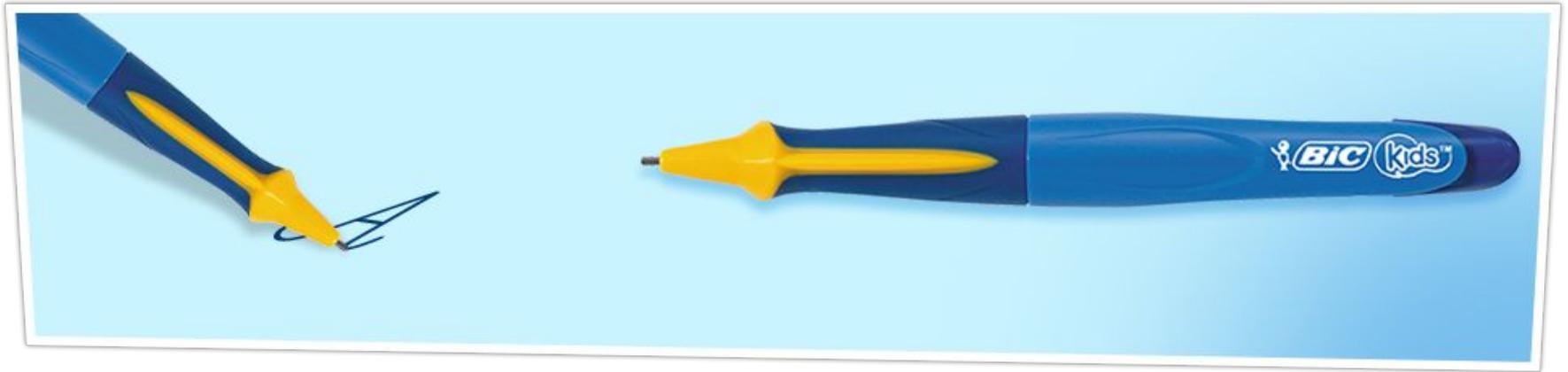
Drop and reset

Flip the pencil trick



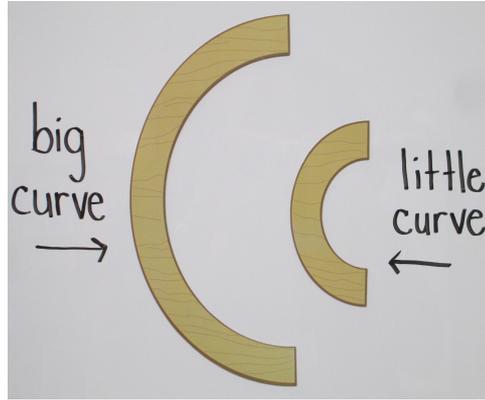
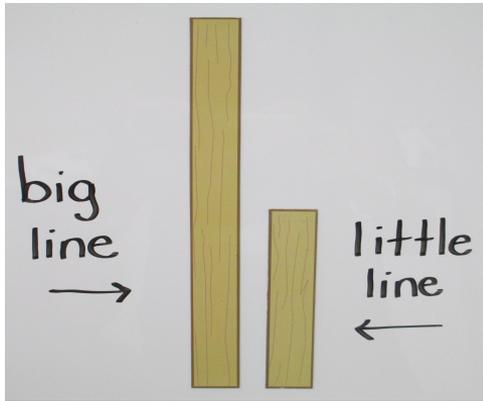
IF NOT, THEN...

There are tools that can support grip if students still struggle



INTRODUCE LINES

Every uppercase letter can be made with the lines we used when we worked with Mat Man.



UPPERCASE LETTERS

We always start our capital letters at the top.

Letters in HWT are put into 3 different groups:

Frog Jump letters: F, E, D, P, B, R, N, M

Starting Corner letters: H, K, L, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

Center Starting letters: C, O, Q, G, S, A, I, T, J

WHERE DO YOU START YOUR LETTERS????

Chords
F = C F A
C7 = C E G B \flat
B \flat = F B \flat D

Where Do You Start Your Letters?
Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It"

F C7

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The first two staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The third and fourth staves are instrumental accompaniment. A cartoon character of a child with one arm raised is drawn on the right side of the page.

Where do you start your letters? At the top!
Where do you start your letters? At the top!

If you want to start a letter, then you
better better better Remember to start it At the top!

Use this song when you're teaching or reviewing capitals.

WET DRY TRY



Wet

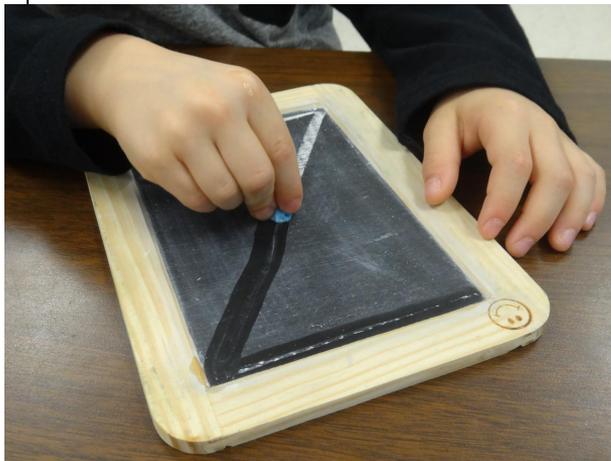
Dry

Try



Gives children touch and repetition without boredom.

WET DRY TRY



LOWERCASE LETTERS

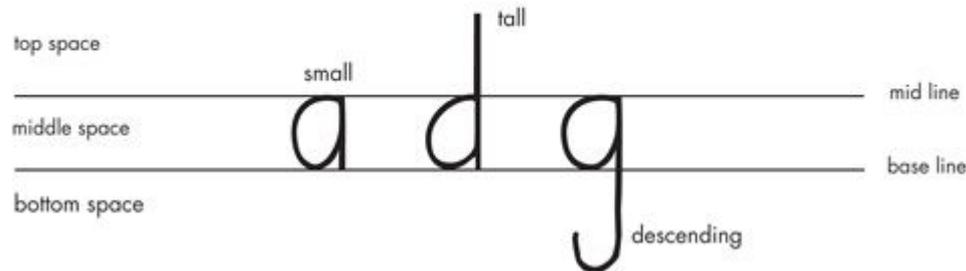
- Taught in developmentally appropriate sequence
- Magic c letters are one group of lowercase letters



demo:

[Handwriting without tears digital tools website](#)

Take a look at space.



CURSIVE

The origin of cursive writing (to generate speed & have infrequent pen lifting) was designed to accommodate the limitations of the quill (break easily & splatter)

The origin of the word cursive means to run

General purpose of cursive is for making writing faster

Learning cursive gives students another opportunity/second chance/fresh start at letter formation and grip

May be able to become acquire fluency & correct grip with cursive

CURSIVE - HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS

Vertical style vs angled (quill)

Kick Start Cursive Workbook (lowercase letters in 2nd)

Needs to be fast, communicative, and legible

Writing vs typing = higher level of comprehension

Goal = students will learn and apply proper habits in all activities

Process = order - method - how & why they connect

CURSIVE - HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS

Connections <http://www.hwtears.com/sites/default/files/online-tools/dtt/player>

Baseline connection (ex = help)

Baseline to high connection (ex = cat)

High to high connection (ex = out)

High to low connection (ex = for)

Travel away connection (ex = f)

SAMPLES OF CURSIVE CONNECTIONS

help (easy)

magic
c game

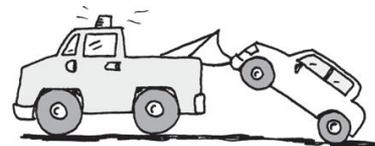
cc cat

out (easy)

for - tow truck (tricky)

wh

connection - r usually begins
on baseline



TAKE A-WAYS FOR PARENTS

- Check your child's posture when writing
- Give feedback on pencil grip
- Provide additional practice with letter formation
-

RESOURCES

<https://www.hwtears.com/hwt/parents>