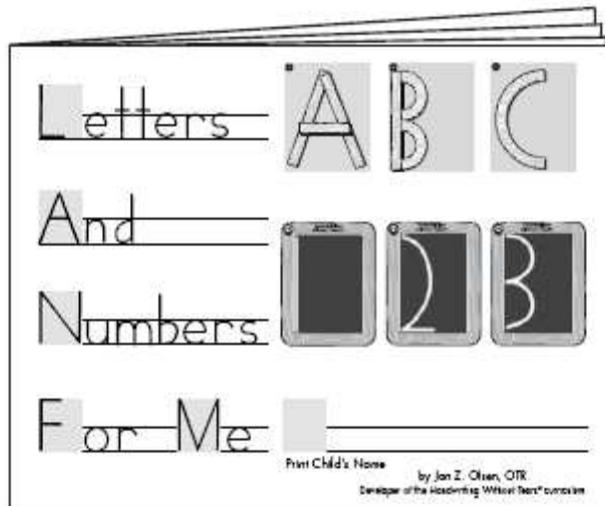


Welcome to Kindergarten



Dear Parents,

We are excited about the Kindergarten handwriting program we are using this school year. Handwriting Without Tears® (HWT) is a simple, developmentally based curriculum for printing. The program uses fun, multisensory techniques to teach letter formation and eliminate reversals of letters. Throughout the school year, we will “build” capital letters with wood pieces. The *Letters and Numbers for Me* workbook helps students to print letters, words and simple sentences. Our goal is to make handwriting a natural and automatic skill. We are sending home information so that you’ll know what we’re teaching and how to help at home. Please let us know if you have any questions.

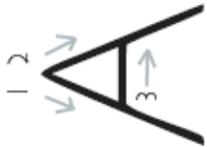
Sincerely,

Your Child’s Kindergarten Teachers

P.S. If you would like more information about the Handwriting Without Tears® Kindergarten program, visit the Handwriting Without Tears® website: www.hwtears.com.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm
Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS®



Big line
Big line
Little line



Big line
Little curve
Little curve



Big C curve



Big line
Big curve



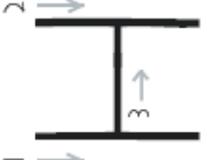
Big line
Little line
Little line
Little line



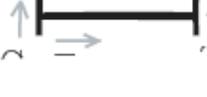
Big line
Little line
Little line



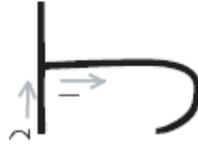
Big curve
Little line
Little line



Big line
Big line
Little line



Big line
Little line
Little line



Big line
Turn
Little line



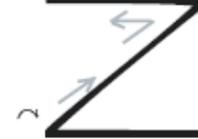
Big line
Little line
Little line



Big line
Little line



Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



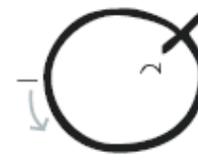
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big C curve
Keep going



Big line
Little curve



Big C curve
Keep going
Little line



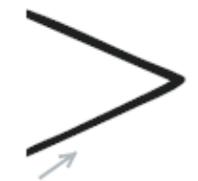
Big line
Little curve
Little line



Little curve
Turn
Little curve



Big line
Turn
Big line



Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line



Little line
Big line
Little line



Little line
Big line
Little line

Directions for Capitals

All START AT THE TOP

- F** Big line down, frog jump! Little line across top, little line across middle
E Big line down, frog jump! Little line across top, middle, bottom
D Big line down, frog jump! Big curve to bottom
P Big line down, frog jump! Little curve to middle
B Big line down, frog jump! Little curve to middle, little curve to bottom
R Big line down, frog jump! Little curve to middle, little line slides down
N Big line down, frog jump! Big line slides down, big line goes up
M Big line down, frog jump! Big lines slide down, and up, and down
- H** Big line down, Another big line down, little line across
K Big line down, Big "Hi-yaaaa" kick, slide away
L Big line down, Little line across
U Big line down, Turn, big line up
- V** Big line slides down, Big line slides up
W Big line slides down, Big lines slide up, and down, and up
X Big line slides down, Another big line slides down
Y Little line slides down, Big line slides down
Z Little line goes across, Big line slides down, little line goes across
- C** Magic C
O Magic C, Keep on going, stop
Q Magic C, Keep on going, stop, little line slides down
G Magic C, Little line up, little line across
S Little Magic c, Turn, little curve
- A** Big line slides down, Another big line slides down, little line across
I Big line down, Little line across top, little line across bottom
T Big line down, Little line across top
J Big line down, Turn, little line across top

Handwriting Without Tears®

Kindergarten Curriculum

At the kindergarten level, children review basic readiness and social skills and engage in play-based learning as they move to formal handwriting instruction. Here are some of the skills they will develop this year with the Handwriting Without Tears® curriculum:

- Social skills and body awareness
- Proper pencil grip and posture for writing
- Vocabulary for building/forming letters and numbers
- Correct letter and number formation, sizing and placement
- Basic sentence writing including words, spacing, capitalization and punctuation



Why Handwriting Without Tears?

- Easy to learn curriculum that works for all students
- Child-friendly consistent language
- Clear workbooks with huge step-by-step directions and generous spacing for children to write
- Easy methods to eliminate backward letter and number writing
- Fun to learn; no more tears!

The Handwriting Without Tears® Difference

Natural Developmental Order

- The curriculum follows natural developmental progression from the easiest to the more advanced skills.
- Hands-on learning tools and exercises follow a student's natural sequence of learning: imitation, copying, independent writing.
- Children learn capitals first using Wood Pieces, Letter Cards, Mat, and Slate.
- Lowercase letters are taught in a natural sequence based on similarity of formation and are immediately used in words with previously taught letters.

Hands-On Learning

Mat, Wood Pieces, Slate, and Blackboard with Double Lines make learning a treat. This assortment of products is unique in the way each engages children and teaches handwriting skills. Holding a pencil, understanding direction, positioning of letters, vocabulary for teaching and learning through imitation are some of the key kindergarten skills students will learn.

Review and Mastery

The Handwriting Without Tears® curriculum reinforces children's mastery of concepts throughout the workbooks with special review and mastery activities. These sections follow a group of letters and focus on reinforcing the formation of all previously taught letters. Teacher's guide activities used throughout the year help students increase their legibility and build their confidence.

Fine Motor and Letter Practice for Home

Hand skills are crucial to successful handwriting. Small movements of the hand are referred to as fine motor skills. If you feel your child is in need of extra activities to strengthen his hands or fine motor skills look at here are a few suggestions:

- Do finger-plays. Find them in a book at the library.
- Cut pictures out of newspapers or magazines. You can take a large black marker and draw a line around the picture to give a guideline.
- Have your child put together small beads, Lego's, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, etc.
- Knead Play dough or clay. Build objects with them.
- Hide small objects in the Play dough and have your child find them.
- Play pegboard games.
- Gather small objects from around the house (small buttons, beads, etc.) place them in a container and have your child pick them up off the table with a pair of tweezers and place them back in the container.
- Play with any toys that require moving or placing little pieces.
- Let your children squirt water bottle outdoors on the sidewalk. Colored water looks great on the snow.
- Squeeze a kitchen baster to move a cotton balls with air. Have a race on the table..
- Finger paint with Jell-O or Cocoa on a paper plate.
- Use small marshmallows and toothpicks to form letters.
- String, popcorn, buttons, beads to make necklaces.
- Using a hole-punch let your child create a design on a piece of paper.
- Have your children clip clothespins to a container.
- Have children lace cards.

You can do several fun activities at home to encourage letter practice. A few are listed below:

- While your children is in the bathtub have them draw letters on the wall of the tub in shaving cream or soap paint.
- Trace a letter on your child's back and have them guess and write the letter on a piece of paper. Take turns and have them trace a letter on your back.
- Finger paint letters.
- Write letters on the sidewalk with chalk.
- Trace letters in the snow or sand.
- Forms letters out of play dough or clay.
- Make cookie letters. Having your child form the letters by rolling the dough and putting the pieces together.
- Form letters out of French Fries.
- Make letters with pipe cleaners.
- Draw letters with your finger on the carpet.
- Decorate a letter collage using glitter, puffy paint, and markers.
- Use different types of pencils for writing practice (gel pens, colored pencils, scented markers, crayons, etc.)
- Have your children write your shopping lists.
- Use a flashlight and make letters on the wall. You or your child has to guess the letter that was made. You can also cut out letter templates to place in front of the flashlight.
- Put letters on a die and have your child roll the dice and they have to write a word that starts with the letter.
- Fish for words. Place cut out fish in a shoebox. Write words or letters on the fish. Attach paper clips to the fish and adapt a small pole with a magnet. Whichever fish the child gets, they have to come up with a word or sentence using what is on the fish.
- Have children write with icing tubes.

Help Me Write My Name

"That's my name. My name starts with ____." Maybe your child is trying to write or even make letters you can recognize. If so, then it's time to start demonstrating how to write a few letters. Here's how:

1. Be a good example.
2. Write in all capitals.
3. Start every letter at the top.
4. Teach letters step-by-step.
5. Write on paper strips with a smiley face in the top left corner.



How can I be a good example?

Hold the crayon correctly. Your child will be watching how you form letters and hold the crayon or pencil. Be a good model. You may need to make a special effort to hold the crayon correctly.

Why should I use all capitals?

Capitals are the first letters that children can visually recognize and remember. They are the first letters children can physically write. If a child can write his or her name correctly in capitals, you may introduce lowercase letters.

Does it matter where my student starts?

Yes, it does. English has one basic rule for both reading and writing: read and write from top to bottom, left to right. When you write with a child, always start at the top.

What do I say when I teach the letters?

Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you're making. Say "big" or "little" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape, like this:
D = "I start at the top. I make a big line. Now I make a big curve."

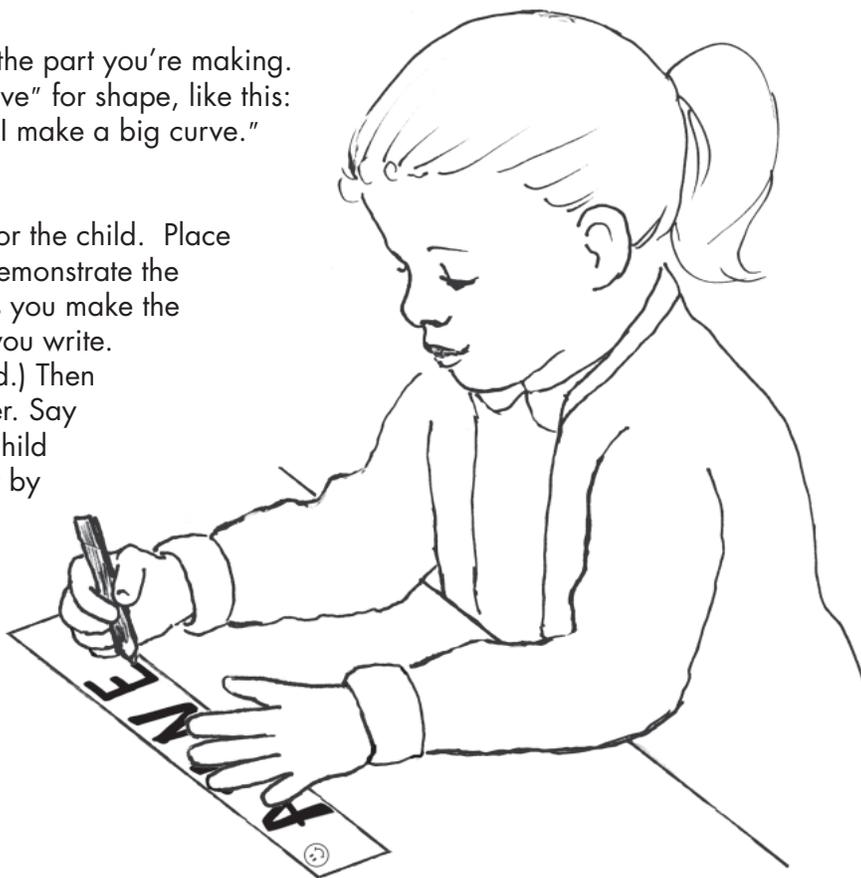
What do I use and how do I do this?

Use two strips of paper, one for you and one for the child. Place your strip directly above the child's strip and demonstrate the first letter in the child's name. Say each step as you make the letter. Be sure the child can see the strokes as you write. (Avoid blocking the child's view with your hand.) Then tell the child to make the letter on his/her paper. Say the steps as the child writes, encouraging the child to say the steps aloud with you. Continue letter by letter.

NOTE:

To Make Paper strips – Use a standard sheet. Fold it in half the long way, and then in half again. Cut on folds to make 4 strips.

Extra help – If the child has difficulty imitating your letter, you may use a gray crayon to pre-write each letter on the child's paper. Do this letter by letter and let the child crayon trace over your letter. Make your gray letters progressively lighter and discontinue pre-writing as child gains ability.



Handwriting Without Tears®



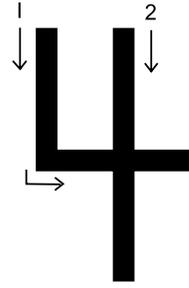
1 starts in the starting corner.
1 makes a big line down.
1 stops in the corner.



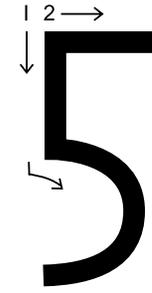
2 starts in the starting corner.
2 makes a big curve.
2 stops in the corner.
2 walks away on the bottom.



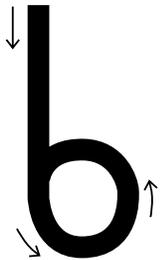
3 starts in the starting corner.
3 makes a little curve to the middle.
3 makes another little curve to the bottom corner.



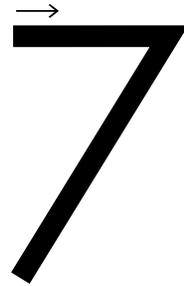
4 starts in the starting corner.
4 makes a little line down to the middle.
4 walks across the dark night.
4 jumps to the top and says, "I did it." (big line down)



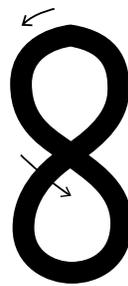
5 starts in the starting corner.
5 makes a little line down to the middle. It starts to rain.
5 makes a little curve around.
5 puts a little line on top to stop the rain.



6 starts in the starting corner.
6 is a baby bear.
6 goes down to curl up in the corner.
6 is hibernating.



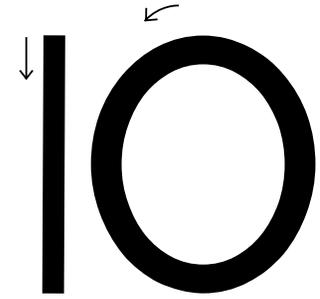
7 starts in the starting corner.
7 makes a little line across the top.
7 says, "I better slide down."



8 is different.
8 doesn't like corners.
8 starts at the top center.
8 begins with S and then says, "I want to go home."



9 is so special.
9 has its own corner.
9 makes a little curve.
9 goes up to the corner.
9 makes a big line down.



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

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Show Me My Name

Use this easy activity to help your child write his/her name correctly.

How can I be a good example for my child?

Hold the crayon or pencil correctly. Your child will be watching how you hold the crayon or pencil and form letters. Be a good model. You may need to make a special effort to use a proper grip.

Does it matter where my child starts his/her letter?

Yes, it does. When children form letters correctly, they are faster and neater. On the next page is a letter formation chart. The letters have arrows and numbers to show you where to start each letter and each stroke. This guide will help you to model the letters correctly.

What do I say when I teach the letters?

Always say, "I start at the top". Then have the child observe you form the letter. What you say isn't as important as what you do. The child must observe you form the letter correctly.

What do I do?

1. Use a blank piece of paper. Position it horizontally on the table.
2. Draw two lines. Tell the child that the top line is yours, the bottom line is his/hers.
3. Demonstrate the child's name, one letter at a time, on the top line.
4. After each demonstration, allow the child time to imitate the letter on the line below.



Adult:	Ben
Child:	Ben

Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you are making. For capitals, say "big" or "small" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape. For example: D = "I start at the top. I make a big line. Now I make a big curve." For lowercase, say "I start at the top. Now watch me."

NOTES:

- For Pre-k and K children, only do this activity with the child's first name until it is mastered. Don't try and put both names on the line because there might not be enough room.
- For 1st grade children, have them write both names on the line.
- Learning to write your name correctly is a great self-confidence builder for young children.

CAPITALS



Lowercase

