

Handwriting tips for parents

Handwriting

There are many reasons why handwriting may be more difficult for your child. Some common problems are spacing/sizing of letters and words, understanding how to form letters, placement of letters on paper, and overall legibility. Here are some suggestions for helping your child with handwriting.

Learning and Practicing Writing Letters/Numbers

- Write in clay, play-dough, or sand
- Write on a chalkboard or white board. Then, trace over it with a wet rag or another color
- Write on a mirror using “window markers”
- “Wikki stix” can be used to form letters on a table
- Use your finger to trace a letter on child’s back or hand. Then, have them guess the letter
- Use magnets when first learning letters to work on recognition and memory
- Have letters preprinted on a sheet of paper. Write over them with a marker, crayon, squeeze bottle of glitter, etc.
- Handwriting Programs: Handwriting without Tears, StartDOT Handwriting, Loops and Other Groups

Word Spacing

- After writing a word, use your finger as a spacer. Start the next word next to finger
- Instead of using your finger, decorate a small popsicle stick and use that as own personal word spacer
- Other spacing methods could be using stickers, making a dot, or putting a dash in between words

Paper and Pencil Grips

- “Sky, Grass, Dirt” paper – <http://www.startdothandwriting.com/resources>
- Graph, larger lined, or highlighted paper
- Pencil grip examples – <http://www.thepencilgrip.com/>

Posture

- Have paper on a slanted surface (e.g. slant board/table or use a 3-ring binder)
- Sit in a chair with feet flat on the floor or a foot rest
- Tilt paper to the left if right handed. Tilt paper to the right if left handed.

Other

- Encourage writing as something fun to do – buy a special notebook and pencil, pen, and/or pencil grip for your child to use when writing.
- Have them practice by writing a few sentences about their favorite toy, what they did last weekend, or another topic.
- Circle the best word or letters and then explain why those were the best
- <http://therapystreetforkids.com/Handwriting.html>

Developed for: _____
Date: _____

Created 6-23
wendytomhave.com