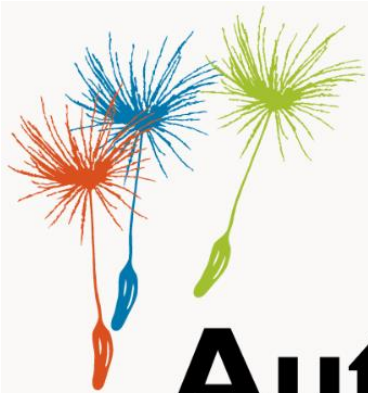


How Can I Help My Child to Print?

Part 3: Making Sense of Lines and Spacing

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AutismONTARIO


FUNCTIONAL THERAPY

Learning objectives

Participants will:

- Develop strategies for proper spacing while printing.
- Develop strategies for letter placement on lines.
- Become familiar with a variety of papers and understand how to use them.



Organizing Print

Determine which mechanism may be interfering with print.

- Letter formations
- Spacing
- Placement on the line



Organizing Print

Tips and Tricks



Organizing Print – Spacing

Trouble with judging how much space to leave between words?

Kids have to be taught how to space properly!

Here are some fun ways to do so...



Organizing Print – Spacing

- Teach child to place an index finger between words.
- After a word, make a finger print before a new word is printed. Use washable markers or a stamp pad.
- Make a "space buddy" with a Popsicle stick. Draw a face on one end and use this after every word to properly space the next one. Make up a story that a friendly spaceman has come to earth and is going to help the child write. When spacing is consistent, the spacemen can go back to their home planet.
- Other ideas: an eraser, sticky strip of post it note, stamp marker, M&M's, stickers, bingo chips, etc.



Organizing Print – Spacing

Trouble with judging how much space to leave between words and letters?

- **Spaghetti & meatballs!**

- Spaghetti helps with the spacing between letters
- Meatballs help with the spacing between words
- *You can use wiki stix for both*



Organizing Print – Spacing

Still having trouble with spacing? Try modifying your paper

- Box paper
 - Every box holds one letter
 - One box to be left empty between each word. If your child needs more visual reminders, the empty box can be coloured in, stickered... etc.



Organizing Print – Letter placement

Trouble with placing words on the lines?

- Reinforce sizing concepts with **specialty paper**
 - Talls: bdfhklt
 - Smalls: aceimnorsuvwxyz
 - Diggers: gjpqy
- **Paper:** Use picture themes!
 - House – (attic, main floor, basement)
 - Earth – (sky, grass, roots)
 - OR make your own –something that motivates your child!



Organizing Print – Letter placement

Other strategies:

- Highlight baseline
- Leave spaces between lines
- Raise the line on the paper
 - Purchase raised line paper
 - DIY with :
 - serrated tracing wheel (fabric store)
 - glue gun
 - wiki stix



Organizing Print – Paper

Is the paper suited to my child's needs?

Many papers used are:

- Visually confusing
- Too narrow
- Too wide
- Too complicated!

How do I pick the right paper for my child?



Organizing Print – Paper

Line Width

- Choose the width of the line by checking how large your child prints.
- This is your starting point. Gradually decrease the width until print is at the desired size.

Types

- Single
- Double
- Triple
- Box
- *Other*



Organizing Print – Check list

Have your child check their work after they are done!

- ☐ My letters are the correct size
- ☐ My letters are on the line
- ☐ My spacing is correct
- ☐ *I formed my letters from top to bottom*
- ☐ *I used capital letters appropriately*
- ☐ *I used punctuation*



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

Don't hesitate to contact me 😊

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