How Can I Help My Child to Print?
Part 2: Lower Case Letters

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AutismONTARIO

FUNCTIONAL THERAPY

Learning objectives

Participants will:

- Develop an understanding of proper letter formation.

- Be provided with insights on how to encourage successful lower case letter development in children.

- Become familiar with double line printing.

- Learn multisensory activities to implement with their child.

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Teaching Letter Formations

- Correct letter formations matter! Sometimes we can get excited when a child forms a letter and not pay attention to *how* they formed it. The stroke sequence is important to know.

- Letters that are not correctly formed can lead to future difficulties with legibility.

- All lower case letters start from the top ***except*** d and e.

- Teach correct placement of letters on the line when teaching how to form each letter.

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Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations

Tips on teaching:
- Model the letter for them
- Sit across from them
- Say the vocabulary while modeling the letter formation
- Have your child imitate you
- Ask them to say the vocabulary while making the letter
- Use solid lines vs. dotted lines if tracing

No matter the letter activity you do with them, remember to be consistent on how you are teaching them by using the above strategies!

FUNctional THERAPY

Teaching Letter Formations

Vocabulary you use to teach each letter:

BE CONSISTENT

Lower case letter vocabulary as per Handwriting without Tears (HWT):

Magic C Letters

Diver Letters

Letter Stories

Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations

Using the Double Line

d o g

Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations

Magic C Letters

Magic C turns into:

- a, d, g, o, q

Diver letters

They dive! They start with the same pattern: dive down, swim up, swim over!

- p, r, n, m,h,b

Letter Stories

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

- b, e, f , g, k, m, q, s Tt, z

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Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations

Multisensory Activities!!!

- Use different senses to help with learning

- Great for children of all skill levels
  - Even if a child is not ready to use a pencil, this can be an effective way to teach them stroke patterns or letter placements

Teaching Letter Formations: Multisensory Activity

Wet Dry Try with a double line blackboard

1. YOU write the letter in chalk
2. Child uses a wet sponge to erase the letter (in correct stroke sequence)
3. Child uses a dry sponge to erase letter (in correct stroke sequence)
4. Child then attempts the letter with the chalk (and uses the visible erase outlines to help guide them)

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Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations: Multisensory Activity

Other Blackboard Activities

1. Bump the Line
2. Name
3. Word Placement

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Teaching Letter Formations: Multisensory Activity

The Hand Activity

not for children learning sign language

- Make a fisted hand for small letters
- Point the index finger up for tall letters
- Point the thumb down for descending letters

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Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations: Multisensory Activity

Lego Brick Play

Small letters

Tall letters

Digger letters

Adapted from thisreadingmama.com

Teaching Letter Formations: Multisensory Activity

DOUGH LETTERS with MATS

- A variety of pre-made ones available or make your own!

  - Pinterest or Teachers pay Teachers or Etsy

- After the dough is correctly on the letter mat, have your child use their pointer finger to squish it as you go through the correct stroke sequence again with them!
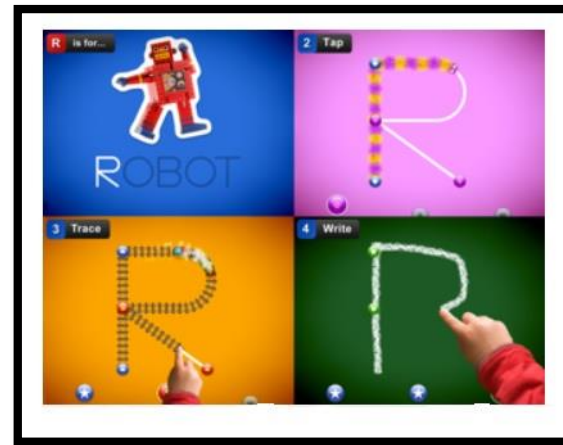
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Adapted from Handwriting without Tears

Teaching Letter Formations- Letter play

- Letter Formation Apps
  - Wet- Dry- Try
  - Letter School

Wet Dry Try

Letter School

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QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!

Don't hesitate to contact me ☺

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