
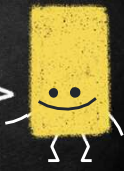


# Printing Problems and Pointers

Based on Handwriting Without Tears  
Created by Jan Olsen, since 1977

Presented by  
Brenda Jones, Occupational Therapist,  
Of Khan Communication Services  
On May 26, 2023

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## Teach by Motor plan

Starting PLACE & Every letter in its SPACE

### UpperCase FIRST

All same size, less line-curve combinations, and...  
12 letters same as lowercase so already taught!

### MULTI-SENSORY

Movement (whole-body-concepts)  
Touch (building/ tracing) Hearing (music/ rhymes)



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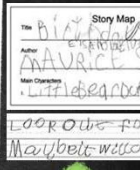
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## 8 component Assessment

<p><b>1.Memory</b> Recognize letter Reproduce it Upper-lowercase</p>	<p><b>2.Orientation</b> Facing right way (visual perception or motor planning?)</p>	<p><b>3.Start</b> <i>AT THE TOP</i></p>
<p><b>4.Sequence</b> Left to right Letter grouping</p>	<p><b>5.Placement</b> Sitting on/in line(s)</p>	
<p><b>6.Size</b> According to age/ Printing experience</p>	<p><b>7.Control</b> Within-letter lines meet accurately</p>	<p><b>8.Spacing</b> Between letters, words, lines</p>





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## 1.Memory

**H**and over hand = model first, then

**P**artial prompt = hoh to start at the top,


**V**isual prompt = tracing/ sticker to start &/or stop

**I**mitate = watch the movement

**C**opy = see a picture

**D**raw/Print= remember what it looks like

**W**ORKING =hold it Memory long enough to write a word/ sentence/ paragraph



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## 2. ORIENTATION (Reversals): and Visual Perception

- IS organizing and understanding what we see... **everyday optical illusions:** block building, matching, mazes, bathroom, shoes on correct feet
- It is **NOT** the ability to see, but rule out eye problems first with optometrist visit
- It is **NOT** related to intelligence, but can have a **profound impact on school...** often need to scan, find, tell difference in size, direction, position, interpret, and reproduce visual information



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More often than not... **ORIENTATION** problems are due to lack of a **Motor Plan**


Knowing where to plant your pencil- **START**

And where to move **NEXT**

So HWT teaches  

**Every letter has a Starting PLACE In it's SPACE**

3. **START**  
At the top!



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**Where Do You Start Your Letters?**

**MULTI SENSORY:**  
whole body concepts



Top  
Middle  
Bottom



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## UpperCase FIRST

**Frog Jump Capitals** F E D P B R N M  
These letters start at the top left corner with a big line on the left. When the first line is on the left, the next part is on the "right" side. This prevents reversals while teaching good stroke habits.

**Starting Corner Capitals** H K L U V W X Y Z  
Reviewing these letters ensures that children start at the top left and use the left-to-right formation habit. Printing follows the same order as reading—top to bottom and left to right. This group promotes that habit.

**Center Starters** C O Q G S A I T J  
C O Q G start with a Magic C stroke. The good habits children learn here with **C O S T J** will make learning **c o s t j** much easier. There will be no problems with stroke direction of reversals.



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**FROG JUMP CAPITALS**  
F E D P B R N M are the Frog Jump Capitals.

Starting Corner    Big Line    Jump!    Little Line    Little Line

Frog Jump Capitals start in the Starting Corner on the dot.  
Make a Big Line down.  
Frog Jump back to the Starting Corner.  
Now you are ready to finish the letter.

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Frog Jump  
Capitals

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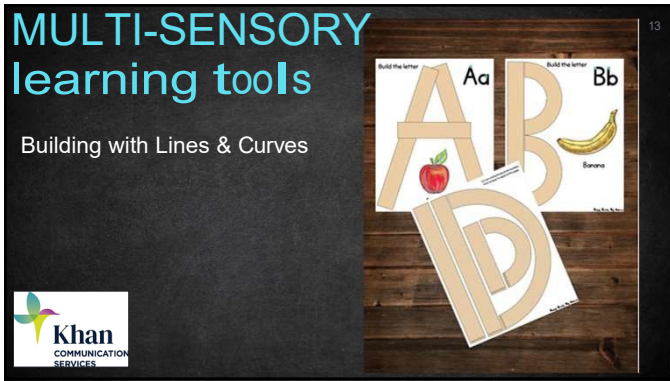
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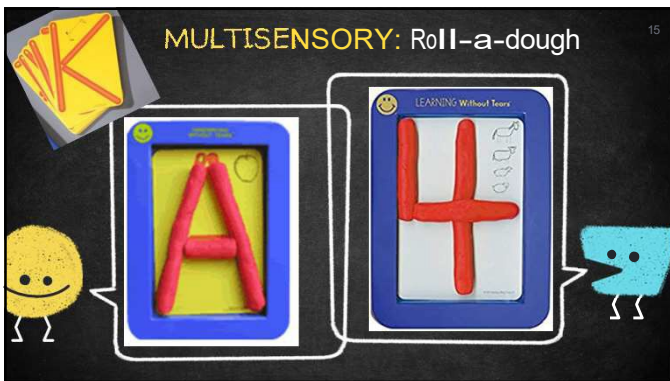
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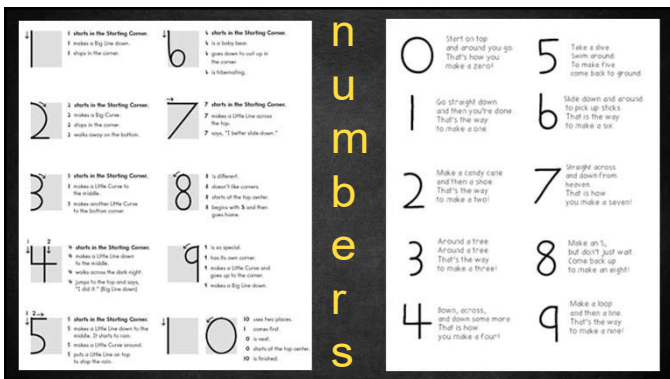
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LET'S LEARN lowercase...  
We already know 8 letters!!

Lowercase Same as Capitals

Cc	Oo	Ss	Vv	Ww	Xx	Zz	Tt
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Lowercase teaching order

Magic C letters a d g	transition group u i e l k y j
diver letters p r n m h b	final group f q x z

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6.Size



LEARNING Without Tears

Double Lines

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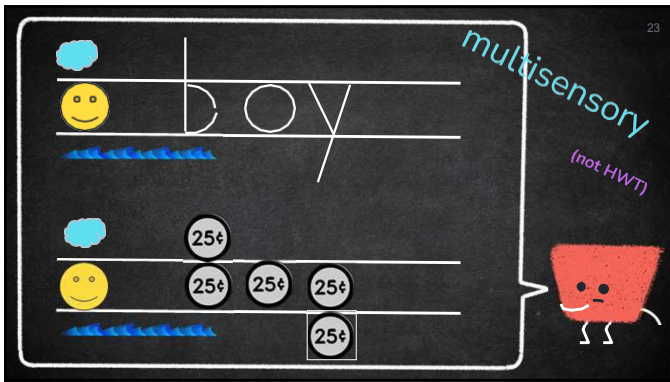
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Lowercase teaching order

Magic C letters a d g	transition group u i e l k y j
diver letters p r n m h b	final group f q x z

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LEARNING Without Tears

Magic c Letters  
c

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**Diver Letters**

- Dive down
- Swim up and over

**Diver Letters**

Lowercase Diver L

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**Letter stories 4. Sequence**

Make an h, then another h and turn it into a honey bee! (helps avoid b d reversals!!)

Batter up. Here comes the pitch — hit the ball, wait then run the bases: 1st,2nd, third, stop! It's not a home run.

The big line is Mr. K, the karate teacher. He wants you to practice kicking. First in the belly: hii-ya! That's uppercase K. Then in the knees: hii-ya! That's lowercase k.

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Starts with a little c. Say hello to the smiley face (top right corner). What do you do if you clothes catch on fire? STOP- DROP-and ROLL!

**Letter stories for 7.Control**

If m has a big gap, people will throw trash in the gap. Make the gap so little there is only room for an upside down chocolate kiss!

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Callirobics for 7. control: Doodling to Rhythm 31

(not HWT)

**THE CONDUCTOR**

**THE BOAT RACE**

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Too big!

**Just Right!**  
Feet on floor,  
Table at elbow height  
Back supported

Too small!

It all starts with  
**Trunk control**

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**Tool use...**

Is an **advanced fine motor skill** requiring coordination and strength of small muscles of the palm and fingers.

If poor pencil grasp persists, see "*Dexterity*" on resources page, and see an OT!

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**Pencil Pickups**  
More advanced

**Aim and Scribble**  
Beginner

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Precursors to Printing

Pre-printing shapes

2 ½ years

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If drawings lack ideas, or are full of ideas but unrecognizable....

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It's Pre-K  
explore & discover

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**“Building” a person with lines/curves**

**Mat Man**



**Guided drawing (not HWT)**



- Imitating step-by-step
- Practice combining shapes
- Practice planning size/ workspace
- Practice following visual instructions (& perception)
- Build library of things to draw
- Add details and generalize to CREATIVE Drawing! (The beginning of storytelling)

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**Learning without pencils**

**CHOOSE A GOAL: PRINTING PRACTICE OR PRODUCT NOT Both**



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**8. Spacing** 40

Copy the words: out us cut

Words for Me

Sentence for Me: Gus got out.

Which one has handlebars?  
The one has handlebars?

Which one has a windshield?  
The one has a windshield?

Words to sentences to paragraphs and poems.

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**TEACH BY MOTOR PLAN** 41

**Cursive: lowercase first**

Bottom connected letters: cadg htp, elf uyij krs

Top connected letters: owbv, mn, xzq

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**Online support... But doesn't replace pencil and paper!** 42

**FREE 3 month trial**

Well-Dry-Try

Alphabet grid showing cursive letters and numbers.

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43

Thanks for Joining me Today!

More Resources to come!

Click here for printable lines/curves

Click here for samples of Guided to Creative Drawing

Click here for matman video

Click here for more info on Visual perception

Click here for more info on fine motor and grasp development

Click here for Learning without pencils

Printable lines/curves

Guided to Creative Drawing

Mat Man

Visual perception

Fine Motor Fun!

Learning without pencils

43

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44

### Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Unsplash](#)

Khan  
Supporting development through life

44

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