

An FYI about Handwriting Without Tears (HWT)

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to Handwriting Without Tears! Your child will be learning how to write the letters of the alphabet using the HWT approach. The order in which they will learn each letter is shown below. Developmentally, it is much easier to write capital letters; therefore, we will be starting with capital letters first and then move into the lower case letters. However, when we teach the children how to write a **capital F**, for example, they will also be exposed to the **lower case f**, and the sound the letter makes.

Frog Jump Capitals:

F E D P B R M N

Starting Corner Capitals:

H K L U V W X Y Z

Center Starting Capitals:

C O Q G S A I T J

Lower Case Letters

Same as capitals and t: c o s v w t

Magic C: a d g

More vowels: u i e

Transition group: l k y j

Diver Letters: p r n m h b

Final Group: f q x z

How to Teach Capitals

Dear Families,

We are learning our capitals at school. Capitals are big, bold, and easy to learn. Students have fewer chances to make mistakes when they write capital letters. Capitals all start at the top and are all the same size. At school we use four shapes when writing our capitals: Big Lines, Little Lines, Big Curves, and Little Curves.

Below is a capital formation chart. Use it at home with your child while practicing proper letter formation. This builds consistency and makes learning capitals easy and fun.

Handwriting Without Tears®

Big Line Big Line Little Line	Big Line Little Curve Little Curve	Big 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 Curve Go around	Big Line Little Curve	Big Curve Go around Little Line	Big Line Little Curve Little Line	Big Line Turn Little Curve	Big Line Little Line	Big Line Turn Little Curve	Big Line Turn Big Line	Big Line Big Line Big Line Big Line	Big Line Big Line	Big Line Big Line	Little Line Big Line Little Line	

Hand Motions for Letters

1. Say the letter name
2. Say the picture name
3. Say the letter sound while making the hand motion

- A Alligator – long arms clap together like an alligator's snout
- B Bat – Swing a bat like you are going to hit a ball
- C Cat – Pull a cat's whiskers from your nose
- D Dog – Slap your leg and snap
- E Elephant – Pull an elephant's trunk from your nose
- F Fan – Make a sign language "f" and fan yourself
- G Gulp – The goat is drinking from a glass - Pretend to drink while touching your throat
- H Hat – Tip your hat and/or move your arms like you are running
- I Insect – Pointer fingers on your head like insect antennae
- J Jump – Jump up and down
- K Kite – Make a sign language "k" and fly the "k" like a kite
- L Lamp – Make an L and move your hand to the sky
- M Monkey – Scratch your fingers under your arm like a monkey and/or rub your belly like you just ate something yummy
- N Nose – Touch your finger to the side of your nose
- O Octopus – Make an octopus with your hands – hook your thumbs and wiggle your eight fingers
- P Pan – Flip the pancake in the air and catch it in a pan
- Q Queen – Put on a crown
- R Rat – A rat is riding a motorcycle – rev the engine (the sound is not /er/ or /ruh/)
- S Snake – Push the snake away with both hands
- T Turtle – Make a turtle with your hands – cup one hand over a fist and wiggle your thumb in the fist for the turtle's head
- U Umbrella – Push up an umbrella and/or put on underwear
- V Van – Drive a van
- W Wind – Make a "w" with three fingers and put it on your mouth
- X X-ray – Cross your arms one at a time over your chest to make an "x" and/or pretend like you are opening a pop can.
- Y Yo-Yo – Go up and down with a yo-yo
- Z Zebra – Make a "z" with your hand in the air

We have stuffed animals for the short vowels. The names of the animals match the short sound of that vowel.

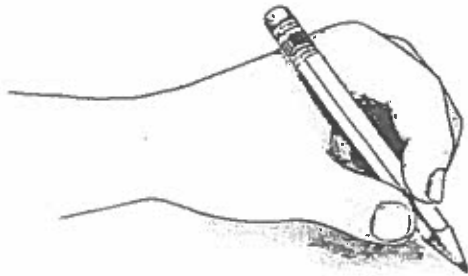
King Up My Pencil

...iles,

.ve are working on holding our pencils correctly at school. The standard ways for children to hold their pencils are illustrated below. Some children like to pinch with the thumb and pointer. That's the tripod (three-pinch with thumb and pointer finger, pencil rests on the middle finger). Others like the quadropod (four-pinch with thumb and pointer/middle fingers together, pencil rests on ring finger). If you write using a grip that is different than tripod or quadropod, alter your grip for practice with your child. Children love to imitate adults and will copy you. The "Flip the Pencil Trick" is a fun way to practice positioning the pencil correctly.

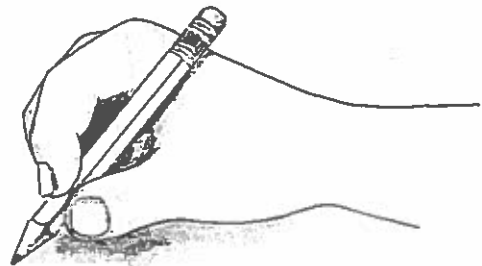
Tripod Grip

Eraser points to **left** shoulder.



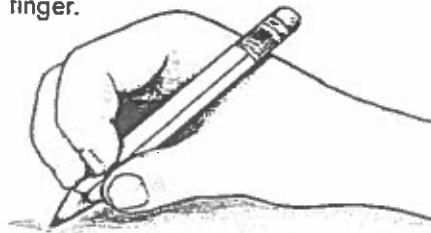
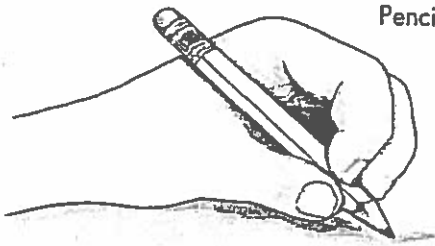
Standard grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index finger.**
Pencil rests on middle finger.

Eraser points to **right** shoulder.



Quadropod Grip

Alternate grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index and middle fingers.**
Pencil rests on ring finger.

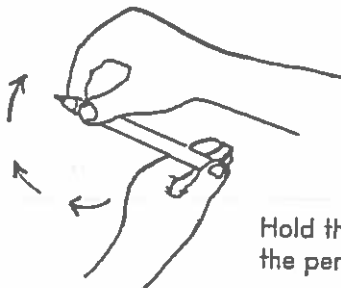


Flip the Pencil Trick

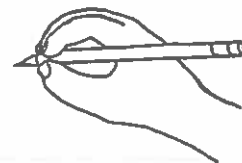
This is a fun way to practice placing the fingers correctly. Children like to learn it and it puts the pencil in the correct position. (Illustrated for right-handed children.)



Place pencil on table pointing away from you. Pinch the pencil on the paint where the paint meets the wood.



Hold the eraser and twirl the pencil around.



Voila!
Correct grip.