

HANDWRITING IN KINDERGARTEN

Letters

Handwriting, forming letters and words on paper to communicate ideas, is an important skill. In order to be effective, handwriting must be legible. In kindergarten, the emphasis for handwriting is upon the teacher modeling the correct formation of letters and the students developing the foundations of writing. Because fine motor skills are still developing, the student's writing will not necessarily look exactly like the model. Each child's ability to form the letters will improve throughout the year.

The adopted handwriting program for grades one through five is McDougal, Littel's Handwriting Connection. It makes good instructional sense, therefore, that kindergarten teachers model the formation of the letters as they appear in this program. The manuscript stroke descriptions and alphabet stroke charts are included on the following pages. Kindergarten teachers should often **verbalize the stroke descriptions** (in five-year-old terms!) as they model the formation of letters. Students in the context of real writing practice correct-letter formation. **The teacher monitors correct letter formation based on the stroke descriptions, but this should not become rigid skill and drill.** After all, children at this age are still developing fine motor skills.

A student is expected to write his/her own name and other important words; write each letter of the alphabet, both capital and lowercase; use phonological knowledge to map sounds to letter to write messages; write messages that move left-to-right and top-to-bottom on the page; and gain increasing control of penmanship such as pencil grip, paper position, and beginning stroke.

Numerals:

Numeral writing is a mechanical skill and is not considered part of mathematics instruction but rather **a handwriting skill**. In kindergarten, the emphasis is on modeling the correct formation of the numerals. Kindergarten students are still developing the fine motor skills and the students writing will not necessarily look exactly like the model. Kindergarten teachers should often verbalize the stroke descriptions as they model the formation of the numerals. It is expected teachers will monitor correct numeral formation based on the stroke descriptions but not allow this to become rigid skill and drill. Many **multi-sensory activities** should be planned and used in the instruction of numeral writing. Listed below are several appropriate materials and activities to use in numeral or letter formation instruction:

- Handwriting Without Tears slates.
- Use sensory trays to write letters in salt, sand, rice, etc.
- Experience fingerpaint.
- Write in shaving cream.
- Paint with water on chalkboard or sidewalk.
- Use dot painters to write letters and numbers.
- Trace numerals with beam from flashlight.
- Write on a student's back with finger.
- Trace textured numerals.
- Write on dry erase boards.

As students become comfortable with numeral formation, they will naturally begin to use numerals to record work in math activities, confirming the student is internalizing the formation of the numerals.

K.14

Alphabet Stroke Chart

Formation of the Manuscript Letters and Numerals as taught in *McDougal, Littell Handwriting Connections*

The following chart is provided for parents and teachers who are assisting students in practicing letter and numeral formation. The students should write in a size appropriate to their grade level and muscle coordination, preferably on lined paper.

a ȧ a²

b ḃ₁ ḃ₂

c ċ¹

d ḋ¹ ḋ²

e ė

f ḟ¹ ḟ²

g ġ¹ ġ²

h ḣ₁ ḣ₂

i i̇₁ i̇₂

j j̇¹ j̇²

k k̇₁ k̇₂ k̇₃

l l̇

m ṁ₁ ṁ₂ ṁ₃

n ṅ₁ ṅ₂

o ȯ

A Ȧ¹ Ȧ² Ȧ³

B Ḃ₁ Ḃ₂ Ḃ₃

C Ċ¹

D Ḋ¹ Ḋ²

E Ė¹ Ė² Ė³ Ė⁴

F Ḟ¹ Ḟ² Ḟ³

G Ġ¹ Ġ²

H Ḣ¹ Ḣ² Ḣ³

I İ¹ İ² İ³

J J̇¹

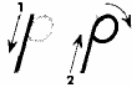

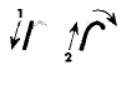

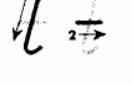
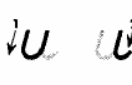
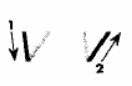
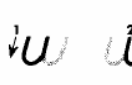
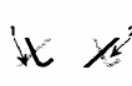
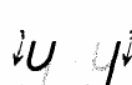
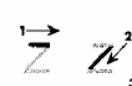




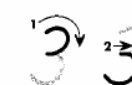
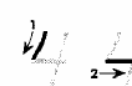


K K̇₁ K̇₂ K̇₃

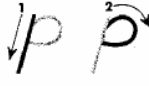



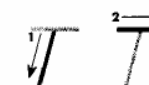



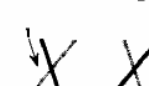

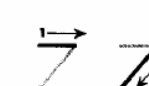

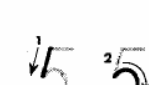
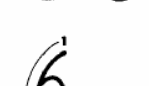


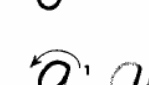


L L̇¹ L̇²








M Ṁ₁ Ṁ₂ Ṁ₃ Ṁ₄





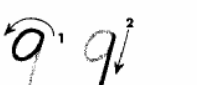


N Ṅ¹ Ṅ² Ṅ³

O Ȯ¹

p  
 q  
 r  
 s  
 t  
 u  
 v  
 w  
 x  
 y 
 z

P  
 Q  
 R  
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0  
 1  
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5  
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 9

Manuscript Stroke Descriptions

Capital *A*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slant down right to the baseline.
3. Slide right on the midline.

Lowercase *a*

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left, circle around, close, and push up to the midline.
2. Retrace down to the baseline; and curve up.

Capital *B*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to slightly below the top line. Curve up and around to the midline; then slide left and touch the slant stroke.
3. Retrace right, curve down to the baseline, slide left, and touch the slant stroke.

Lowercase *b*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Retrace up, curve up right, circle around, and touch the slant stroke.

Capital *C*

1. Begin slightly below the top line. Curve up left and circle around, ending just above the baseline.

Lowercase *c*

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left and circle around, ending just above the baseline.

Capital *D*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to slightly below the top line. Curve up right, circle around to the baseline, slide left, and touch the slant stroke.

Lowercase *d*

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left, circle around, close, and push up to the top line.
2. Retrace down to the baseline and curve up.

Capital *E*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slide right.
3. Go to the midline. Slight right.
4. Go to the baseline. Slide right.

Lowercase *e*

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left and circle around, ending just above the baseline.

Capital *F*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slide right.
3. Go to the midline. Slide right.

Lowercase *f*

1. Begin slightly below the top line. Curve up left and slant down left to the baseline.
2. Slide right on the midline.

Capital *G*

1. Begin slightly below the top line. Curve up left and circle around, curving up to the midline.
2. Slide left on the midline.

Lowercase *g*

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left, circle around, close, and push up to the midline.
2. Retrace and continue down to the descender line, then curve up left.

Capital *H*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Move to the right of the first stroke. Slant down left to the baseline.
3. Slide right on the midline.

Lowercase *h*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Retrace up, curve over and down to the baseline, and curve up.

Capital *I*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slide right.
3. Go to the baseline. Slide right.

Lowercase *i*

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the baseline and curve up.
2. Place the dot directly above the letter.

Capital *J*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline and curve up left.

Lowercase *j*

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the descender line and curve up left.
2. Place the dot directly above the letter.

Capital *K*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Move to the right of the first stroke. Slant left to the midline and touch the slant stroke.
3. Slant right to the baseline and curve up.

Lowercase *k*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Retrace up, and curve right, circle around to the midline, and touch the slant stroke.
3. Slant down right to the baseline and curve up.

Capital *L*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Slide right.

Lowercase *l*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline and curve up.

Capital *M*

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slant down right to the baseline.
3. Slant up right to the top line.
4. Slant down left to the baseline.

Lowercase *m*

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Retrace up, then curve over and down to the baseline.
3. Retrace up, curve over and down to the baseline, and curve up.

Capital N

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slant down right to the baseline.
3. Slant up right to the top line.

Lowercase n

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Retrace up, curve over and down to the baseline, and curve up.

Capital O

1. Begin halfway between the top line and the midline. Curve up left, circle around, and close.

Lowercase o

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left, circle around, and close.

Capital P

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to slightly below the top line. Curve up and around to the midline, then slide left and touch the slant stroke.

Lowercase p

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the descender line.
2. Retrace up, curve up right, circle around, and touch the slant stroke.

Capital Q

1. Begin halfway between the top line and the midline. Curve up left, circle around, and close.
2. Begin just above the baseline. Cross through the bottom of the letter with a curve-down, curve-up stroke.

Lowercase q

1. Begin halfway between the midline and the baseline. Curve up left, circle around, close, and push up to the midline.
2. Retrace and continue down to the descender line and curve up.

Capital R

1. Begin at the top line. Slant left to the baseline.
2. Go back to slightly below the top line. Curve up and around to the midline, then slide left and touch the slant stroke.
3. Retrace, slant down right to the baseline, and curve up.

Lowercase r

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Retrace up to just below the midline, then curve right.

Capital S

1. Begin just below the top line. Curve up left to the top line; curve down to the midline; curve down right to the baseline; curve up left.

Lowercase s

1. Begin just below the midline. Curve up left to the midline; curve down to halfway between the midline and the baseline; curve down right to the baseline; curve up left.

Capital T

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline.
2. Go back to the top line. Slide right.

Lowercase t

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline and curve up.
2. Slide right on the midline.

Capital U

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down left to the baseline, curve right, and push up to the top line.
2. Retrace down to the baseline and curve up.

Lowercase u

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the baseline, curve right, and push up to midline.
2. Retrace down to the baseline and curve up.

Capital V

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down right to the baseline.
2. Slant up right to the top line.

Lowercase v

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down right to the baseline.
2. Slant up right to the midline.

Capital W

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down right to the baseline.
2. Slant up right to the top line.
3. Slant down right to the baseline.
4. Slant up right to the top line.

Lowercase w

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left to the baseline, curve right, and push up to the midline.
2. Retrace down, curve right, and push up to the midline.

Capital X

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down right to the baseline and curve up.
2. Go back to the top line. Move to the right. Slant down left to the baseline, crossing through the letter at the midline.

Lowercase x

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down right to the baseline and curve up.
2. Go back to the midline. Move to the right. Slant down left to the baseline, crossing through the letter in the middle.

Capital Y

1. Begin at the top line. Slant down right to the midline.
2. Go back to the top line. Move to the right. Slant down left to the midline, touch the first stroke, and keep going to the baseline.

Lowercase y

1. Begin at the midline. Slant down left almost to the baseline, curve right, and push up to the midline.
2. Retrace and continue down to the descender line; curve up left.

Capital Z

1. Begin at the top line. Slide right.
2. Slant down left to the baseline.
3. Slide right.

Lowercase z

1. Begin at the midline. Slide right.
2. Slant down left to the baseline.
3. Slide right.

McDougal, Littell Handwriting Student Mnemonics

- L* - Slant down; slide.
l - Down, and a puppy tail.
- I* - Slant down. Cross at the top. Cross at the bottom.
i - Down, and a puppy tail. Dot.
- T* - Slant down; cross at the top.
t - Down, and puppy tail. Cross in the middle.
- O* - Around and close.
o - Around and close.
- A* - Slant left. Slant right. Cross in the middle.
a - Around, up; down, and a puppy tail.
- C* - Curve up and around.
c - Curve up and around.
- D* - Slant down. Curve around.
d - Around, up to the clouds; down, and a puppy tail.
- G* - Curve around; slide.
g - Around, up; down to the basement, and fishhook.
- E* - Slant down. Slide. Slide. Slide.
e - Curve up and circle around.
- S* - Curve up and around; curve down and around.
s - Curve up and around; curve down and around.
- N* - Slant down. Down; up.
n - Down; up, over, down, and a puppy tail.
- M* - Slant down. Down; up; down.
m - Down; up, over, and down; up, over, down, and a puppy tail.
- H* - Slant down. Slant down. Cross in the middle.
h - Down; up and over, and a puppy tail.
- K* - Slant down. Slant to the middle; slant down, and a puppy tail.
k - Down; up and around; down, and a puppy tail.

- B** - Slant down. Curve around; curve around.
b - Down; up, and a kangaroo pouch.
- P** - Slant down. Circle around.
p - Down to the basement; up and around.
- R** - Slant down. Circle around; slant down, and a puppy tail.
r - Down; up, curve.
- F** - Slant down. Slide. Slide.
f - Curve up, slant down. Cross in the middle.
- U** - Down, around, up to the clouds; down, and a puppy tail.
u - Down, around, up; down, and a puppy tail.
- W** - Slant down; slant up; slant down; slant up.
w - Down, around, up; down, around, up.
- Y** - Slant down halfway. Slant down all the way.
y - Down, around, up; down to the basement, and a fishhook.
- V** - Slant down; slant up.
v - Slant down; slant up.
- X** - Slant right, and a puppy tail. Cross.
x - Slant right, and a puppy tail. Cross.
- Z** - Slide; slant; slide.
z - Slide; slant; slide.
- Q** - Around and close. Add a worm.
q - Around, up; down to the basement, and a puppy tail.
- J** - Down, and a fishhook.
j - Down to the basement, and a fishhook. Dot.

Number Mnemonics

1 – A straight line one is fun

2 – Around and back on a railroad track; two, two, two

3 – Around the tree and around the tree; it's a three

4 – Down and over and down some more; it's a four

5 – Five is fat, put on a hat

6 – Down to a loop a six rolls a hoop

7 – Across the sky and down from heaven; it's a seven

8 – Make an “S” please don't wait, climb back up and close the Gate

9 – A loop and a line; it's a nine