

Tîm Camau Bach Tips for Handwriting Skills



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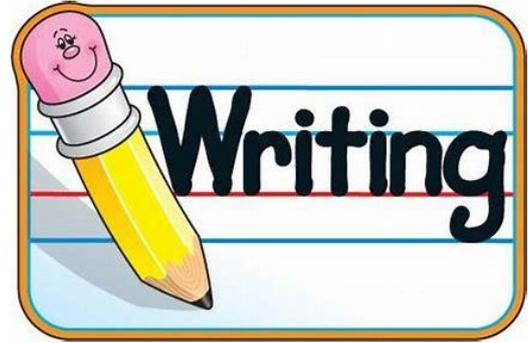
How to teach handwriting.

1. Help your child to develop a functional grasp.

Activities to help your child achieve a functional grasp.

Children need many opportunities to build hand strength. You cannot grasp a pencil or pen correctly without hand strength. Build hand strength through play.

- Play on the monkey bars
- Climb in the playground
- Play tug of war
- Use play dough and clay activities
- Scissors and cutting activities/cut playdough into sausages/ try cutting straws.
- Use a sticker book and stickers
- Do threading and snap on building activities.
- Cooking – make bread, pizza dough scones, cakes using the rubbing in method.
- Play Pick up sticks game
- Try breaking crayons into small pieces and picking them;
- This needs to be ongoing, don't stop!!! Lots of ideas online.



Pencil grasp

Make a game of pencil grasp. **Traffic lights pencil game**

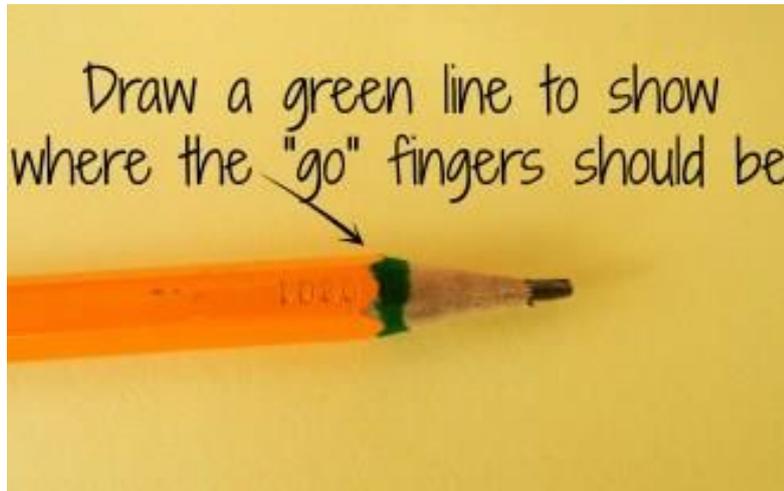
Green for go fingers – (thumb, index and middle) get to have a “go” ride on the pencil, while the red for stop fingers (ring finger and pinky) get tucked into your palm instead.

Now put a green Go on your child's “go fingers and a red dot on the “stop fingers. This visual cue will help your child to understand what you mean. Please note do it on your own fingers first!!! Make it a game! E.g. We are going to play Traffic light fingers!!!!



Now the pencil itself

Draw a green line around the bottom of the pencil like so. Encourage your child to place his "green" fingers on the green line.



Place a sticker on the pencil and give a visual cue to your child by wrapping a sticker above the sharpened point of the pencil so your child knows where to hold the pencil. Match your green fingers to the sticker.



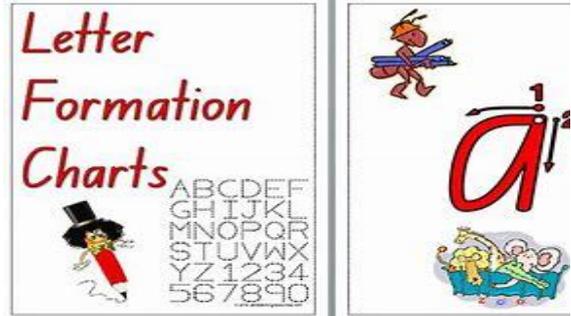
Note: Please don't make your child hold the pencil this way. The information here is for encouragement and tips to help him/her. It may be that your child is holding the pencil in the only way possible to make a mark. Let it be it will come with practice.

2. Teaching letters formation

First thing: Always start your practice with physically active play to prepare the body for focus and concentration.

Ready to go now! Try this approach.

Can your child draw and copy lines? Practice this first.

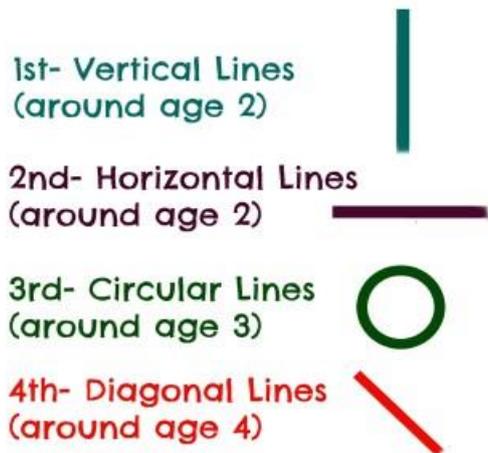


Start with Lines

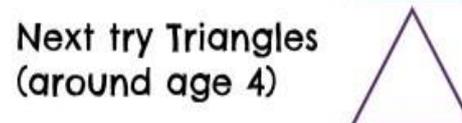
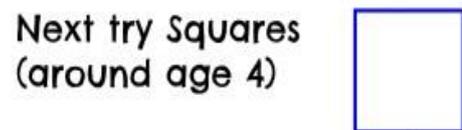
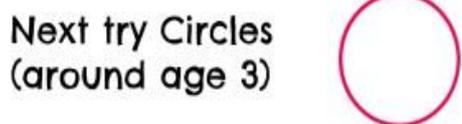
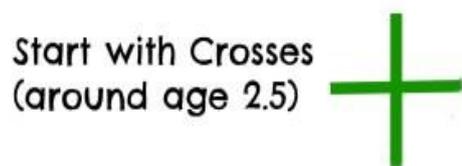
Each letter in the alphabet is made up of a combination of vertical, horizontal, diagonal or curved lines. If your child can draw these lines then he is able to make each letter. Below is a typical progression for drawing lines so follow this sequence below.

Move to shapes now. When your child learns how to draw each line they are ready to connect the lines to make shapes.

Basic shapes (cross, circle, square and diamond) contain all of the line types needed to make each letter. Follow this sequence below.



Now ready for letters! Group the letters in the following order to teach them. This will make sense to your child as the letters follow the pattern of lines which emerge with the development stages for your child.



How to Teach the UpperCase Alphabet

E, F, H, I, L, T (Vertical & Horizontal Lines)

B, C, D, G, J, O, P, S, U (Curved Lines)

A, K, M, N, Q, R, V, W, X, Y, Z (Diagonals)

Now Use dots for correct starting places for letters.

Letters are meant to be formed in a top – down direction. Each letter needs to start at the top. Place a green dot where your child should start the letter

How to Teach the LowerCase Alphabet

i, l, t (Vertical & Horizontal Lines)

a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, u
(Circular Lines)

k, v, w, x, y, z (Diagonals)

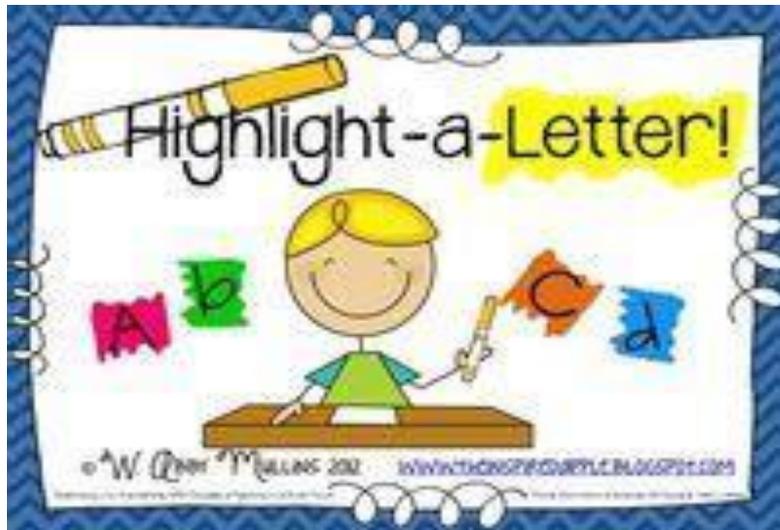
Dots on top

If your child is finding this hard try: -

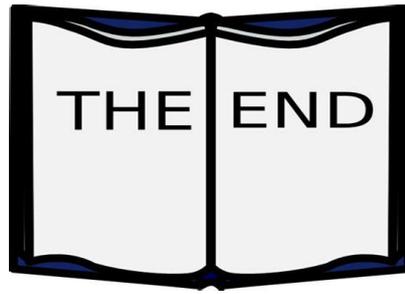
Tracing over the letters. Make it fun with activities like this. Place tracing paper over the top.



You can also use a highlighter pen and encourage your child to draw over your letters being careful to put a green dot for the start to teach direction



Ok time to close.



Remember plenty of praise and laughter and fun is needed to learn new skills.

Try to remember not to ask and ask your child to repeat things.

Celebrate that he has tried and achieved whatever he does.

Have fun together.



Hope this helps and good Luck.



Good Luck !