

A Multi-Sensory Approach to Teaching Handwriting

Feel free to use this approach in your homeschool or classroom setting. This handout was created by Emily Redhair, Ph.D. Please refer to the blog post for photographs of the activities described.

Overview

For each handwriting practice session, select one activity from the Large Motor Movement section, one from the Level 1 section, one from the Level 2 section, and then complete with paper practice on lined paper or a worksheet.

See the blog post to go with this handout for letter practice worksheet source recommendations at: <http://learnwithemily.com/instructional-strategies/teach-multi-sensory-handwriting/>

Large Motor Movement Activities

- Form the letter in the air with a wand or other toy
- Trace a large letter with a toy car or other high interest item

Fine Motor Practice Level 1

- Form the letter using a letter building set such as the wood pieces from Handwriting without Tears
- Form the letter with play dough
- Form the letter using a magnet doodler, such as the one from Handwriting without Tears
- Form the letter with legos
- Form the letter by putting manipulatives or small toys on top of the letter
- Use dot paints to form the letter
- Paint small dots on the letter with a cotton swab and tempera paints
- Put small stickers on a letter
- Spaghetti (or yarn) writing
- Form the letter with wiki stix

Fine Motor Practice Level 2

- Use a small chalkboard slate (like the ones from Handwriting without Tears). First the adult writes the letter. Then the child can trace it with a wet paintbrush or sponge piece. The child can form the letter again by drying off the wet line with a cotton ball or small cloth or skip write to tracing the shape with a piece of chalk.
- Use a magnet pen to form the letter on a magnet doodler
- Paint the letter with watercolors
- Trace the letter with markers
- Write the letter in a rice, sand, or salt tray
- Write the letter in play dough using a dull pencil
- Copy the letter on a dry erase board