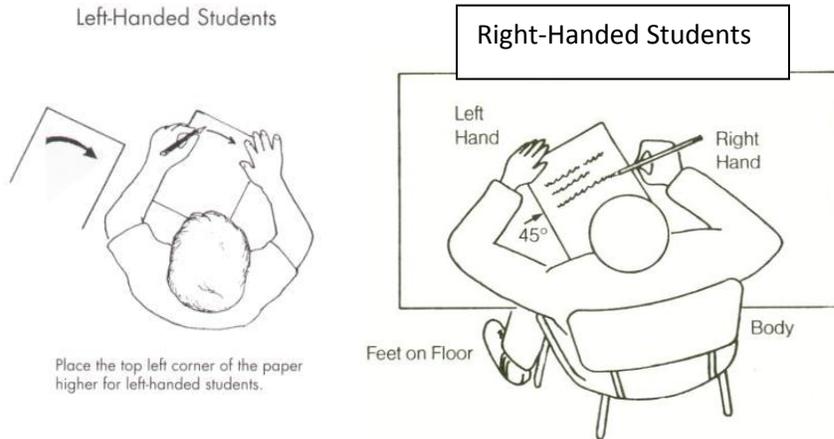


HANDWRITING

WRITING POSTURE



PENCIL GRASP

A mature pencil grasp: The thumb and index fingers oppose each other, the pencil lies upon the middle finger. The ring and baby fingers are tucked into the palm.

- Have your child write while holding a small eraser under his or her pinky and ring finger. This will encourage him or her to only manipulate the pencil with his or her thumb, index and middle finger. It also encourages dissociation of his or her fingers.



- Have your child color and write with mini crayons, pencils, and chalk (~ 2cm long). This will help train the appropriate finger muscles to work, and will teach a more mature pencil grasp.



- Place two stickers on the pencil/marker, and tell your child that he or she must keep their thumb and index fingers on these points.

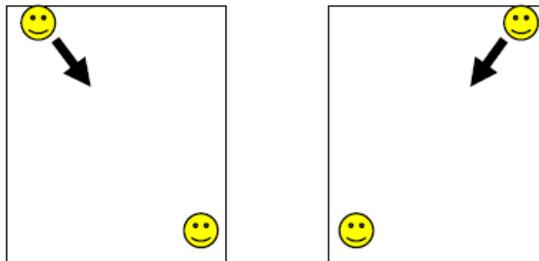


PRE-WRITING SKILLS

It is important for your child to establish a hand dominance, as this is an important writing precursor skill. Encourage your child to use his/her right hand, as he/she shows a right hand preference.

Before being able to write a letter from memory, your child must first understand how to form the strokes that make up the letters, and then be able to trace the letter and then copy it. Have your child practice the different strokes and letters by using fun multi-sensory materials!

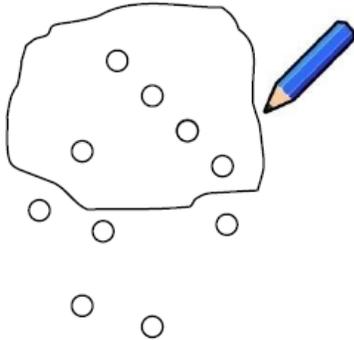
- ✓ Shaving Cream on a mirror
 - ✓ Finger paints or pudding
 - ✓ Sidewalk chalk
 - ✓ Wet paint brush on a chalky blackboard or a dirty window
 - ✓ With a stick in the sand
 - ✓ Crayon soap in the bath tub
- **Example – Learning to draw diagonal lines:** Place a smiley face in the opposing corners of a piece of paper. Have your child connect the smiley faces.



Once your child can coordinate the movements of his or her marker to connect the smiley faces, have him or her trace diagonal lines on paper. It is always easier to trace before copying.

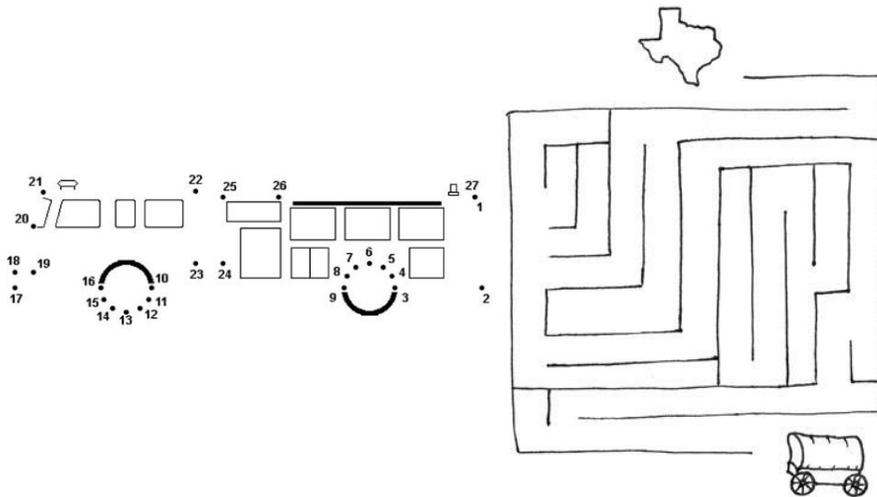
PENCIL CONTROL

- Encourage your child to color in small objects. This will train the small muscles of his or her hands so that he or she can write smaller and within lines.



Color in the chocolate chips!

- Mazes and connect-the-dot activities are great ways to develop pencil control.



PRINTING AND WRITING

It is easier to write big at first, then as your child gains more control of his or her pencil, have him or her write smaller.

Handwriting Without Tears is the writing program used to teach our students both print and cursive. This begins with capital letters, followed by numbers, lowercase letters, and finally lowercase and capital cursive letters. This is taught through the use of lines and curves and can be practiced with wooden or foam pieces before being written on paper.

Emphasis is placed on the formation of the letter, placement within line boundaries, and size and spacing.

Handwriting Without Tears has a great website that contains more helpful information and tips for writing: <http://www.hwtears.com/hwt>



Capital Formation Chart

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 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
 Little Curve Turn Little Curve	 Big Line Little Line	 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 Big Line Little Line	

Referenced on page 43 – 1st Grade Printing Teacher's Guide

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