

How To Fix Handwriting Problems
Problem Area: LETTER MEMORY

What is Memory?

- ★ Remembering what a letter or number looks like
- ★ Remembering the “name” of a letter or number
- ★ Recognizing the letter or number in a word or sentence (regardless of size or font)
- ★ Remembering the correct strokes to form a letter or number (for example, the letter B has one big line and two little curves)

Strategies to Improve Memory:

- ★ Explain size concepts (big, small) BEFORE introducing letters/numbers
- ★ Explain directionality concepts (top, middle, bottom, left, right) BEFORE introducing letters/numbers
- ★ Explain parts of a writing line BEFORE introducing letters/numbers. **Model using a writing line for ALL tasks involving handwriting.**
- ★ Teach letters in group
 - Capital Groups:
 - “Frog Jump Letters”: F E D P B R N M
 - “Magic C Letters”: C O Q G
 - “Silly S”: S
 - “Big Line Letters (that start on left)”: L H K
 - “Big Line Letters (that start in middle)”: T I J
 - “Diagonal Line Letters”: A V W X Y Z
 - Lower Case Groups
 - “Shrinking Letters”: c o s v w x y z
 - “Magic c Letters”: c o e a d g q
 - “Diver Letters (on the “low dive”): r n m
 - “Diver Letters (on the “high dive”): h b
 - “Diver Letters (“deep sea diver”): p
 - “Line Letters (with a “little line”): i u j*
 - “Line Letters (with a “big line”): k l t f*
- ★ Use poems for formation of numbers

Activities to Improve Memory :

1. Building Letters/Numbers

Supplies Needed:

- ★ Line/Curve Templates (See Attached)
- ★ Pretend Paper Template

Procedure:

- ★ Make templates out of construction paper, cardboard or foam paper.
- ★ Practice making each capital letter and/or number out of the templates using the letter formation guide.
- ★ Talk about the “kinds of lines” the letter is made up of (big lines, little lines, big curve, little curves) and how many of each.

2. Wet-Dry-Try Letters/Numbers

Supplies Needed:

- ★ Small Chalkboard
- ★ Chalk
- ★ Small pieces of sponge

Procedure:

- ★ Make a letter/number on the chalkboard for the child
- ★ Have the child “wash off” the letter/number by using a small wet piece of sponge to go over the letter. Make sure that the child is “washing it off” just ONE stroke at a time, NOT the entire board.
- ★ Have the child “dry” the strokes with a small dry piece of sponge.
- ★ Talk about the “kinds of lines” the letter is made up of (big lines, little lines, big curve, little curves) and how many of each.
- ★ Have the child attempt to make the letter/number using the “image” left on the chalkboard from wetting and drying.

3. Playdoh Letters/Numbers

Supplies Needed:

- ★ Playdoh
- ★ Model of letter/number on paper

Procedure:

- ★ Place the paper model of the letter/number in front of the child.
- ★ Talk about the “kinds of lines” the letter is made up of (big lines, little lines, big curve, little curves) and how many of each.
- ★ Have the child form the letter/number out of playdoh. First, have the child form it ON the paper model. As the child becomes more familiar with how the letter/number is formed, have him/her form it on a tabletop/surface while just looking at the paper model.

4. Magician Letters/Numbers

Supplies Needed:

- ★ Paper
- ★ Writing Utensil

Procedure:

- ★ Have letters/numbers already written on small pieces of paper and placed into a hat.
- ★ Select a letter/number out of the hat without showing it to the child.
- ★ Encourage the child that he/she can “read your mind to figure out what letter you selected”
- ★ Have the child turn around and trace a letter/number onto his/her back with your finger.
- ★ Have the child attempt to guess the letter/number either verbally or by drawing it himself on writing paper.
- ★ See if the child’s letter matches the letter/number you selected

Other Activities:

- ★ Using letter/number flash cards
- ★ Making letters/numbers with paint, markers, crayons, in shaving cream, in sand, out of macaroni/cotton balls/other craft items.
- ★ Practice letters/numbers ON three-lined writing paper (even if the child can’t get size/alignment correct).
- ★ Alphabet Bingo