

How To Fix Handwriting Problems

Problem Area: Sequence

What is Sequence?

- ★ Forming a letter/number using the correct order and stroke direction of the letter/number parts.

Strategies to Improve Sequence:

- ★ Be consistent with how you model forming the letters
- ★ Be consistent with how you verbally explain your formation.
- ★ Always use the same type of strokes, always use the same “names” for those strokes and always use the same order you present those strokes in.
- ★ Teach letters in group with emphasis on language/direction of strokes
 - 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 Sequence :

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.
- ★ Emphasize the starting point and the direction of following strokes.
- ★ 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.
- ★ Emphasize the starting point and the direction of following strokes.

- ★ 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.
- ★ Emphasize the starting point and the direction of following strokes.
- ★ 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.