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
  o 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
  o 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.