

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm  
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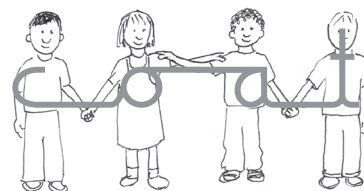
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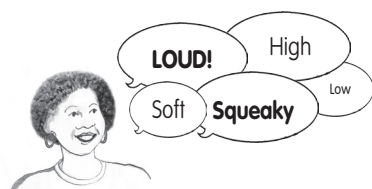
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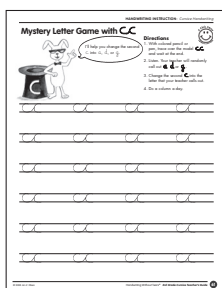
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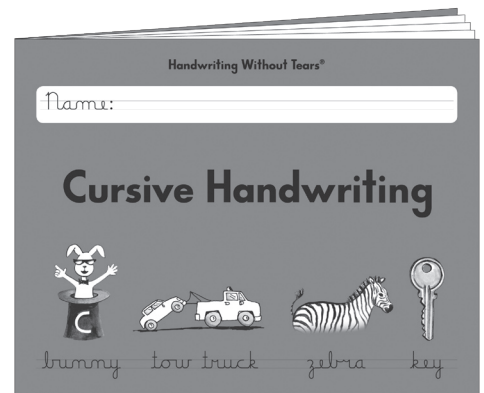


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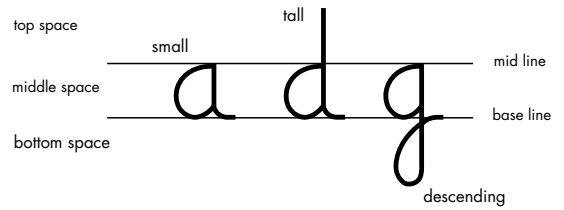
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## WET-DRY-TRY

We emphasize placing letters correctly because it is essential for neat and fast cursive. We teach on double lines because it is the easiest way to impart a sense for how letters should be placed. These Wet-Dry-Try activities on double lines are a great way to teach letter size and place. The image to the right gives you the basics of how we discuss letter size and placement. For additional information, please see page 48 of this guide. Wet-Dry-Try activities appeal to all learning styles and are a fun way to practice letters.

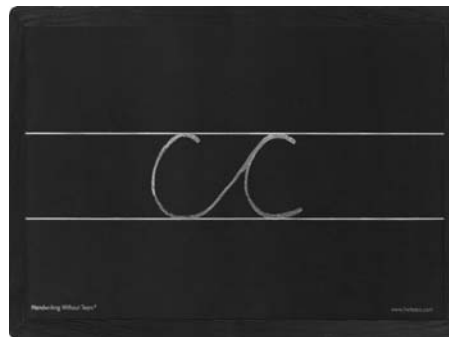


## Blackboard with Double Lines

### Preparation

1. Prepare Blackboards with the letter you will be teaching.
2. Place Little Chalk Bits and Little Sponge Cubes around the room so children can reach them easily.

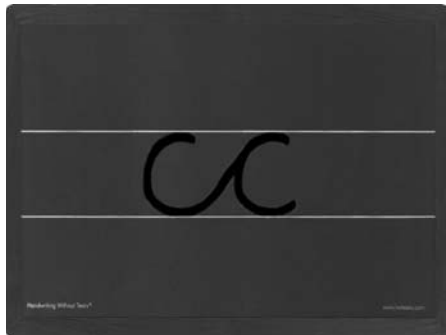
### Directions



### Teacher's Part

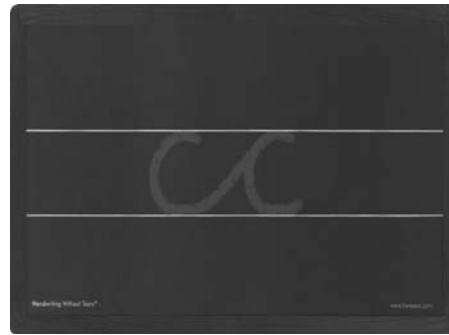
Demonstrate correct letter formation.

### Student's Part



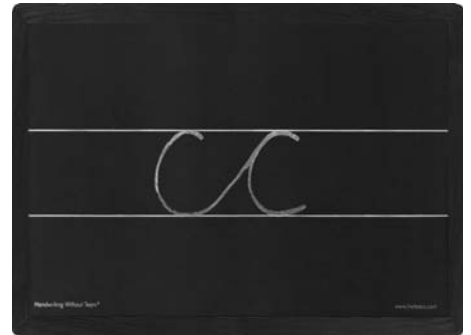
### WET

- Wet a Little Sponge Cube.
- Squeeze it out.
- Trace the letter with the sponge.
- Wet your finger and trace again.



### DRY

- Crumple a little paper towel.
- Dry the letter a few times.
- Gently blow for final drying.



### TRY

- Take a Little Chalk Bit.
- Use it to write the letter.

### Tips

- Use consistent words to describe the strokes. Match your verbal cues to the directions on the letter lesson pages of the workbook.
- Use Little Sponge Cubes and Little Chalk Bits to help children develop proper pencil grip.
- Squeeze the sponge well or the letter will be too wet.
- When using this activity with the whole class, pre-mark students' chalkboards with the lowercase letter (so they have a correct model to wet), and then demonstrate once for everyone.

## The Correct Grip

The standard way for children to hold their pencil is illustrated below. If you write using a grip that is different than tripod or quadropod, alter your grip for classroom demonstration.

### Tripod Grip

Thumb, Index Finger, Middle Finger

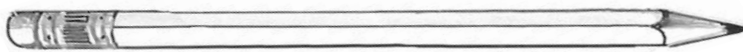


### Quadropod Grip

Thumb, Index Finger, Middle Finger, Ring Finger



### A Note About Pencil Size



We start by using golf size pencils in kindergarten and first grade. As children gain handwriting experience, their control improves. At that time, we transition them to a standard pencil.

## Cursive Warm-Ups

We created these Cursive Warm-Ups for children to put their pencil grips to the test and practice some of the challenging strokes in cursive. Think of it as a pencil exercise. Turn to page 54 of this guide for detailed instructions. Students should do one row per day.

Another alternative is to do this page by playing Pencil Pick-Ups. Have students pick up a pencil and hold it in the air to check that they have the correct grip. Have them do one or two of the exercises and then – stop, drop their pencils, pick them up, check grips, and do a couple more exercises.

**Cursive Warm-Ups**  
Start on the star. Do one row a day.

Under and over	Up and straight down	Up and loop down	Descending loop
* u o *	* * *	* * *	* * *
* u o *	* * *	* * *	* * *
* u o *	* * *	* * *	* * *
* u o *	* * *	* * *	* * *
* u o *	* * *	* * *	* * *

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# CURSIVE WARM-UPS

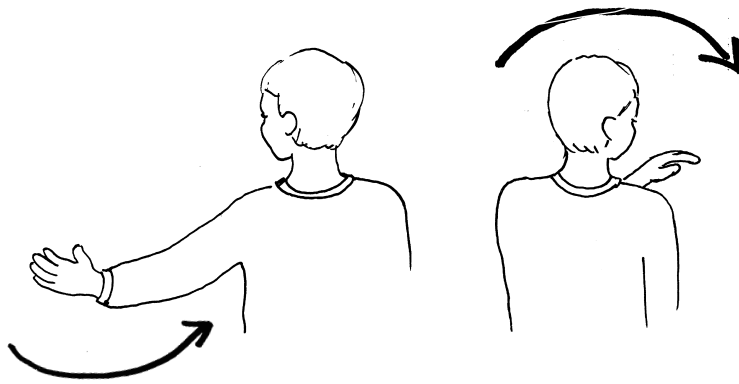
## Pre-Cursive Exercises

### Prepare in the Air

Are they ready to connect letters? Teachers prepare students for the first cursive connections by making arm motions in the air. As they pretend to scoop sand and put it on a pile, they'll learn how to change directions in a stroke. Here's how:

- Children stand and put the **left hand** out to the left side.
- They scoop up the sand.
- They put the sand on top of a pile.

The scooping motion (under curve) naturally changes into a piling motion (over curve) as children pretend to scoop and pile sand.



### Prepare on Paper

Now have them do it with pencils using the Cursive Warm-Ups on page 7 of the workbook. The ability to change directions during a stroke is essential for making the first cursive connections. This strategy prepares students for the first cursive lessons.

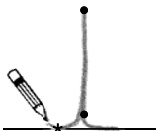
#### Under to over



This exercise prepares children for their first group of cursive letters and words. Once children can complete the undercurve to overcurve exercise, they are ready to begin learning the **c** to **c** connection as well as other **c**-based connections. The **c** to **c** connection is essential to be able to write words that begin or contain c-based letters (**c a d g o q**). Think about it. How many words can you think of that have a **c** to **c** connection?

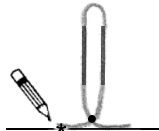
#### Up and down retrace

This exercise helps children prepare for letters **i t u p h k**.



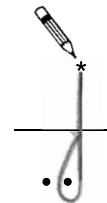
#### Up and down loop

This exercise helps children prepare for letters **l r f l**.





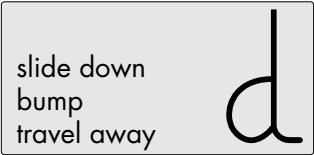


#### Descending loop

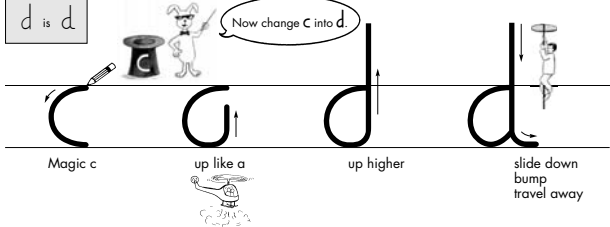
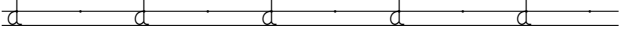
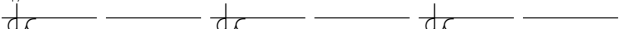
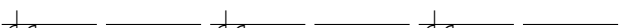


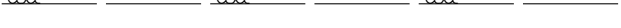
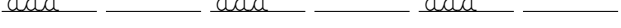

This exercise helps children prepare for letters **g j y**.



Teach

	 Magic c	 up like a helicopter	 up higher	 slide down bump travel away
---	--	---	---	--

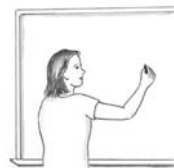
**Get Started** Say, "Turn to page 12. Watch me write cursive **d** on the double lines. I make it like this. Letter **d** is like printed **d** but it travels away at the end."

 <p>Magic c      up like a      up higher      slide down bump travel away</p> <p>Start on the dot. Copy <b>d</b>. <input type="checkbox"/> Write &amp; Check <b>d</b></p> <p>Copy words.</p> <p>add      add</p> <p>dad      dad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check <b>dad</b></p> <p>12 Handwriting Without Tears® Cursive Handwriting      © 2008 Jan Z. Olsen</p>	<p>Start on the dot. Copy <b>d</b>.</p> <p></p> <p>Copy models.</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>Next to capital <b>D</b>, write lowercase <b>d</b>. Start on the dot.</p> <p></p> <p>© 2008 Jan Z. Olsen      Handwriting Without Tears® Cursive Handwriting 13</p>
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Multisensory Activities

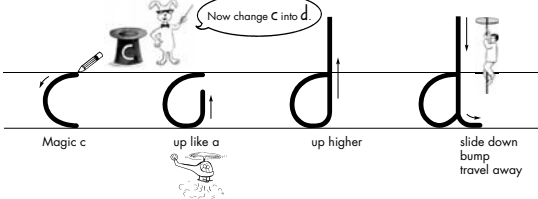


**Music and Movement**  
Use the *Rock, Rap, Tap & Learn* CD, *Magic C Rap*, Track 17. See page 56 of this guide.



**Imaginary Writing**  
Use *My Teacher Writes* to demonstrate **d**. See page 26 of this guide.

Finger Trace Models Step-by-Step



Magic c      up like a      up higher      slide down bump travel away

Say the step-by-step directions for **d** while children finger trace each step.

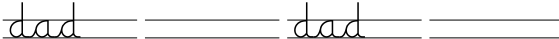
Copy and Check **d**

Start on the dot. Copy **d**.  Write & Check **d**



Demonstrate **d**, saying the step-by-step directions. Children watch, then copy **d**s.  
 Check letter: start, steps, bump

Copy and Check Words with **d**



Check **dad**

Demonstrate **dad**. Children watch, then copy.  
 Check word: size, placement, connections

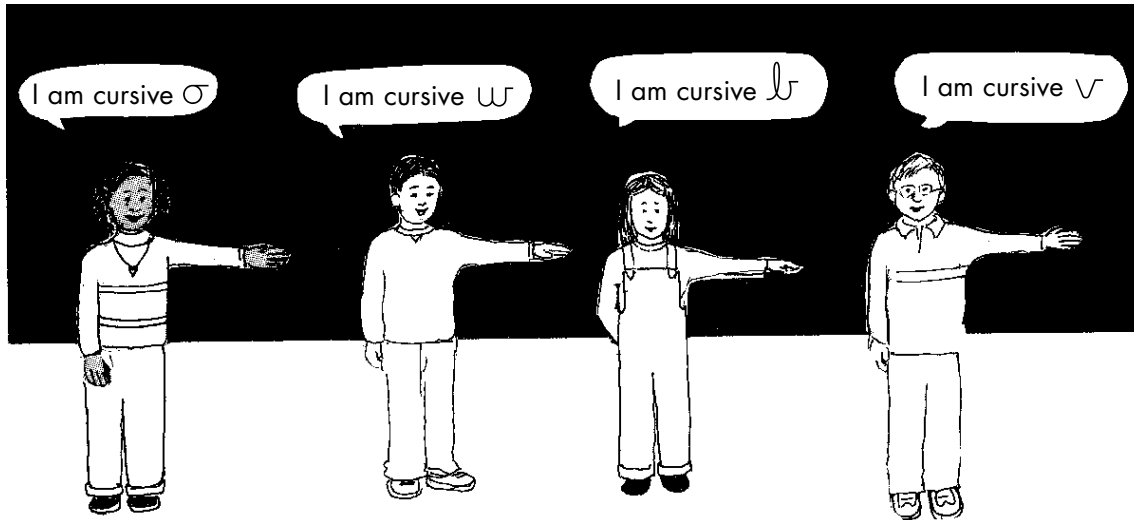
Tips

- This is the first page in the workbook where we do  Check word. Teach the concept and components (size, placement, connections) thoroughly. See page 53 of this guide for more information.
- If the down line slides away **d**, tell students to hang onto the line with the pencil until it bumps the line.
- Point out that cursive capital **D** looks like printed capital **D**.

## Tow Truck Connections

Tow truck letters are the only letters that do not end on the bottom line. They have a special ending—they end up high on the midline. The ending always sticks out (like a tow). The letter after a tow truck letter must be cranked up to the tow.

Have fun with these letters! Allow children to become the tow truck letters! Four children can stick their left arms to make tows. They announce their identity as tow truck letters.



### Keep the tow up

Tow truck letters never go down to the bottom line to join a letter. If the tow is lowered to the bottom line, the tow truck letter will lose its identity, creating spelling and legibility issues.

If **o** goes down to pick up a letter, it will change into *a*.

If **w** goes down to pick up a letter, it will change into *u*.

If **l** goes down to pick up a letter, it will change into *u*.

If **v** goes down to pick up a letter, it will change into *u*.

### Easy to Tow

Some letters are easy to tow because they start on the top line. To join, simply finish the tow and begin the next letter. Easy-to-tow letters include:

*a c d g u y a t d g u y dog oat*

### Crank up Letters

Some letters that start on the bottom line must be cranked up before they can be towed. These letters are:

*t h k l f b t h k l f b what of old*

### Smile for the Tow

Some letters are tricky to tow. Both the tow and the letter have to change shape. Use a big smiling tow before joining to these letters:

*i n e s i r e s oil we or vest*