

Ways to Encourage Letter/Number Handwriting
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1. Provide much modeling on the formation of letters and numbers and encourage/demonstrate a top to bottom approach.
2. Practice letters in groups of similar strokes such as:
 - **c a g d q o s** (all start with c shapes first and are done with one continuous stroke)
 - **i l t**
 - **r n m b h p** (all start with downward stroke first, then re-trace back up)
 - **v w k z x y** (diagonal letters)
 - **j e f u** (miscellaneous letters)
3. To practice formation of letters:
 - (a) Model formation of letters/numbers slowly several times using verbal cues
 - (b) Trace over large letters/numbers (color changer markers are good for this). Tracing can also be done with finger on dry erase board to “erase” your letter or on chalkboard using different colored chalk.
 - (c) Finger draw letter/number in different materials (cornmeal on tray, salt on black construction paper, fingerpaint, sand, etc.) Watch for correct formation.
 - (d) Make a dot or use a small sticker for a starting point and have child practice letter formation him/herself. Letters/numbers do not always have to be done at the table using pencil/paper.
 - Can use chalk on driveway or sidewalk
 - Small sponges and water on chalkboard or driveway
 - Different colored markers on paper on wall/floor
 - Dry erase boards
 - Magna-doodles

The idea is to model a lot, do only 3-4 letters a week, practice frequently (10 minutes/day), and make it fun !