

# The Joy of Handwriting

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

There are many discussions on the pros of teaching cursive handwriting first. There are also a few different programs already out that also teach cursive. I have taught both printing and cursive and have come to believe that teaching cursive first is the best way to go. Cursive really does make sense to children and is often used by therapists with children that have learning disabilities. The National Institute of Learning Disabilities is one of the organizations that teach cursive.

This program uses a cursive that is a simple style without all the little tags and embellishments that some types of cursive use. I use smaller lines which promotes better hand eye coordination. You will find it is also easier for young children to stay in the smaller lines, regardless of the way other programs promote large lines. I also do not use dotted figures. I use an outline form which allows the child to write the letter inside the lines. This is great for sight and memory when learning to form each letter. Each day's lesson is on ½ sheet of paper which doesn't overwhelm the student. If you do not want to try cursive, or would prefer another style of handwriting, the program is available in manuscript as well.

## FLASHCARDS

A set of flashcards accompany the program and show the formation of each letter. You can have a child trace the letter with his finger or even with a dry erase marker for practice. There are instructions for the formation of the letter on the back of each card. You will also find the letters as they would appear in a book. If you are teaching a young child that is not familiar with the manuscript letters, you may want to familiarize them with these letters as well. If you are displaying the card for the child to copy on his own, place the card on the opposite side from his writing hand. (i.e. If he is left handed place the card on the right corner of the table.) Although the lowercase and capital letters are taught separately, I have them both displayed on the card. This will allow students to be familiar with the letter when it is time to learn it.

## HOUSE GUIDE

In the flashcard set you will find one with a house on it. I use this card to help students learn the placement of the letters on the lines. You can display this card any time to help a child remember. You can also have a child write the letter directly on the house with a dry erase marker.

## STROKES

The cursive letters in this program are not taught in the correct order. They are taught according to their stroke. The vowels are the only ones taught out of sequence with their strokes. When coupling this handwriting program with the phonics program, the vowels are taught first. They are used the most frequently and you can start making words faster. The five basic types of strokes used are uphill, circle, loop, teardrop and hump. You may want to practice these strokes before starting the letter in the set. Extra paper is given for extra practice or you can do this on the chalkboard or in a small box of sand. The following is how the letters are broken up into strokes.

Vowels – *a, e, i, o, u*

Uphill letters – *r, t, w,*

Circle letters – *c, d, p,*

Loop Letters – *l, b, f, j,*

Teardrop – *s, k*

Hump letters – *n, m, v, x,*

Circle-Loop – *g, qu*

Hump-Loop – *h, y, z.*

\* The letter "w" is an uphill letter. Start at the floor. Uphill to the middle. Down to uphill 2. Down to uphill 3. Middle connector. Remember to connect the w to other letters at the middle.

NAME

w w w w w w w

w w w

www www

wet two we

\*Let's practice all of our uphill letters!

i i i

u u u

r r r

t t t

w w w

iurtyw iurtyw

\*Start the capital E at the dot in the attic. Draw a straight line to the floor. Go back to the dot and draw a straight line to the right in the attic, one in the middle, and one at the floor.

**NAME**

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E E E E

E e E e

Esther Easter

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\* The capital F starts at the dot in the attic. Draw a line straight down. Go back to the dot. Make a line across the roof. Make another line across the middle of the house.

**NAME**

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F F F

F f F f

Fran France

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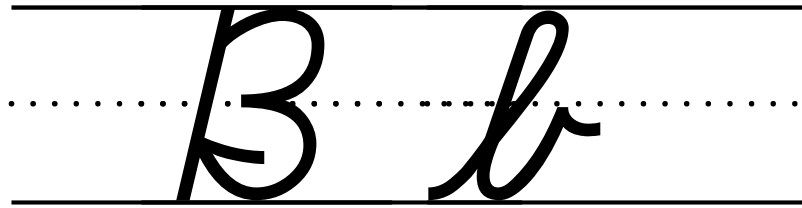
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# Sample Flashcard

*(Originals have 4 letters on one sheet of paper)*

Front of card



Back of card

# B b

**Instructor Keywords:** /b/ bear

**Instructions for lower case letter formation:** The letter “b” is a loop letter. Start at the floor. Go uphill to the attic. Loop down to the floor. Uphill to the middle. Middle connector. Remember to connect letters to the b at the middle.

**Instructions for capital letter formation:** The capital B starts at the top. Make a straight line down to the floor. Follow the line back up to the top. Curve around the attic to the middle. Curve around the main house to the floor and make a tag to the middle of the main house. It does not connect to other letters.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dotted middle line, and a solid bottom line. This section contains five sets of these lines.

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