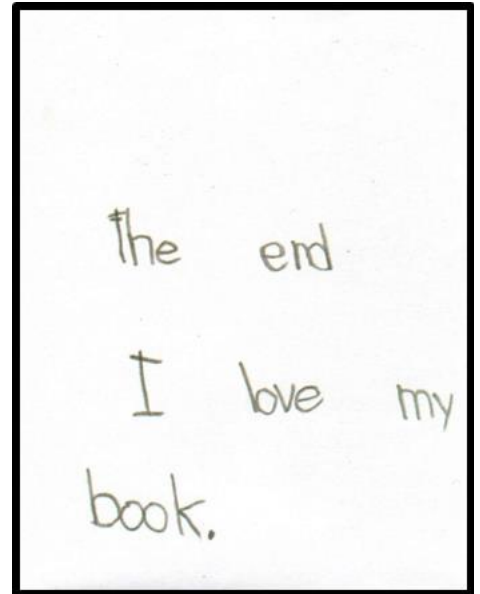
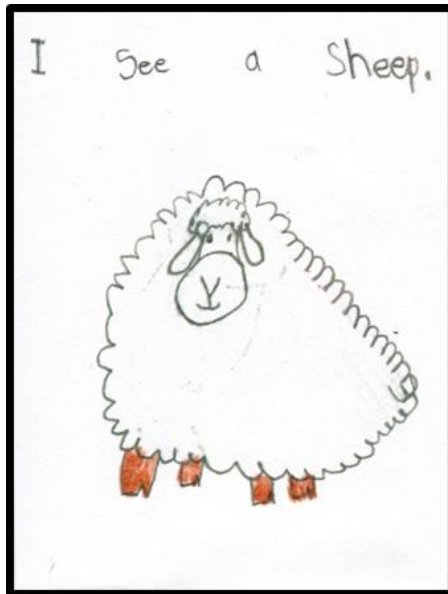


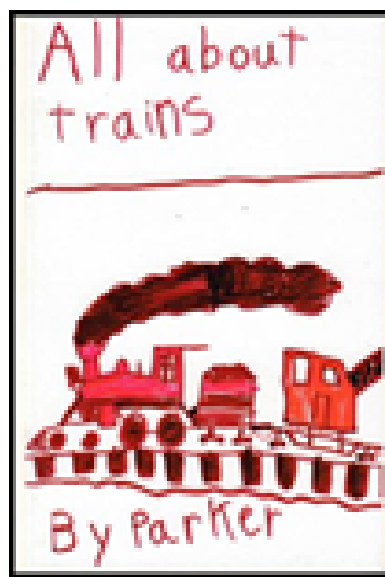
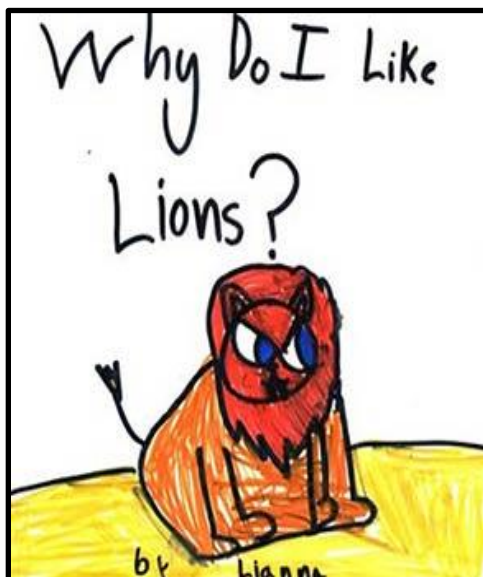
## What Does Quality Kindergarten Handwriting Look Like?

- Every letter is formed correctly: Letters are tall, small, or they fall...
- Good spacing between words
- Print is easy to read



## Why is Good Handwriting Important?

- So we can write better and faster
- So our finger muscles won't get tired
- So everyone can read our writing
- So we can build our reading and writing brain



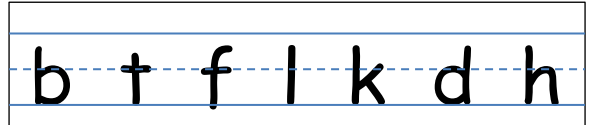
# Some Letters Are Tall

(Sing the rhyme and dramatize movements. Practice printing **tall** and **small** letters and letters that **fall** below the line.)

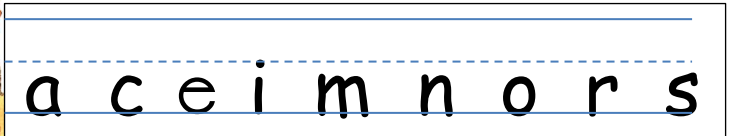
*Some letters are tall, tall, tall.  
Some letters are small, small, small.  
And some letters just fall, fall, fall.  
And we like them all, all, all!*

Adapted by Nellie Edge

Some letters are tall!

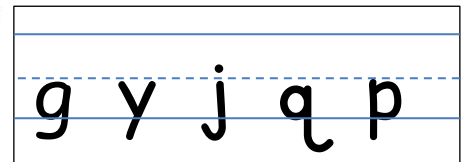


Some letters are small.



And some letters just fall...

---



And we like them all, all, all!



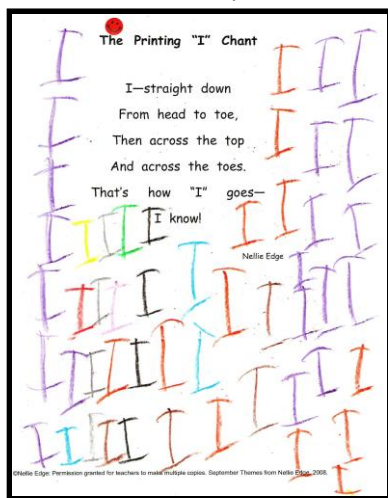
Original source of this rhyme is unknown.

Art from *Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear* A Nellie Edge Read and Sing Big Book™

# We Are Learning Handwriting Songs and Chants

Dear Families,

Please ask your child to recite and dramatize these rhymes.



## \*The Printing "I" Chant

I—straight down from head to toe.

Then across the top and across the toes.

That's how "I" goes—  
I KNOW!

by Nellie Edge

## \*I Always Start My Letters

I always start my letters at the top (the top!)

I always start my letters at the top (the top!)

When I write another letter, I get better, better, better

If I always start my letters at the top (the top!)

## Top to Bottom, Left to Right

Tune: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes

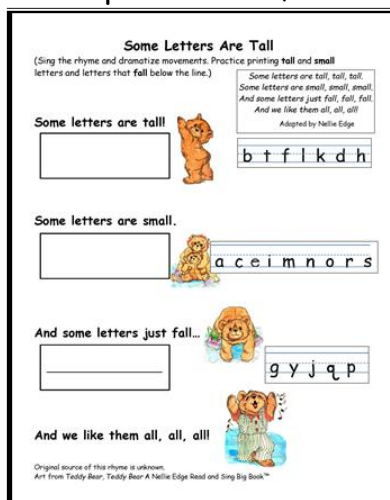
(author unknown—shared at National ITeachK Conference)

Top to bottom, left to right, left to right

Top to bottom, left to right, left to right

That's how we read and  
how we write

Top to bottom, left to right, left to right!



## Some Letters are Tall

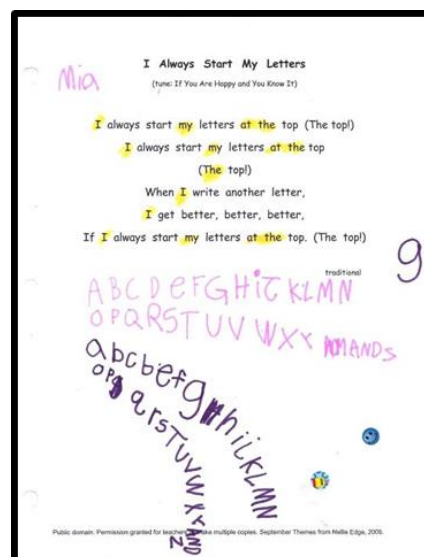
Some letters are tall, tall, tall.  
Some letters are small, small, small.  
Some letters they fall, fall, fall.  
And we like them all, all, all.

## Capital Letter Chant

Capital letter starts my name.  
Then lower case—  
The rest are the same.  
(lowercase, lowercase, lowercase, lowercase)

by Nellie Edge

\*Recorded on *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* CD by Nellie Edge



## \*I Can! C-a-n

I can! C-a-n  
I can! C-a-n  
I can! C-a-n  
Yes, I know I can!

by Nellie Edge

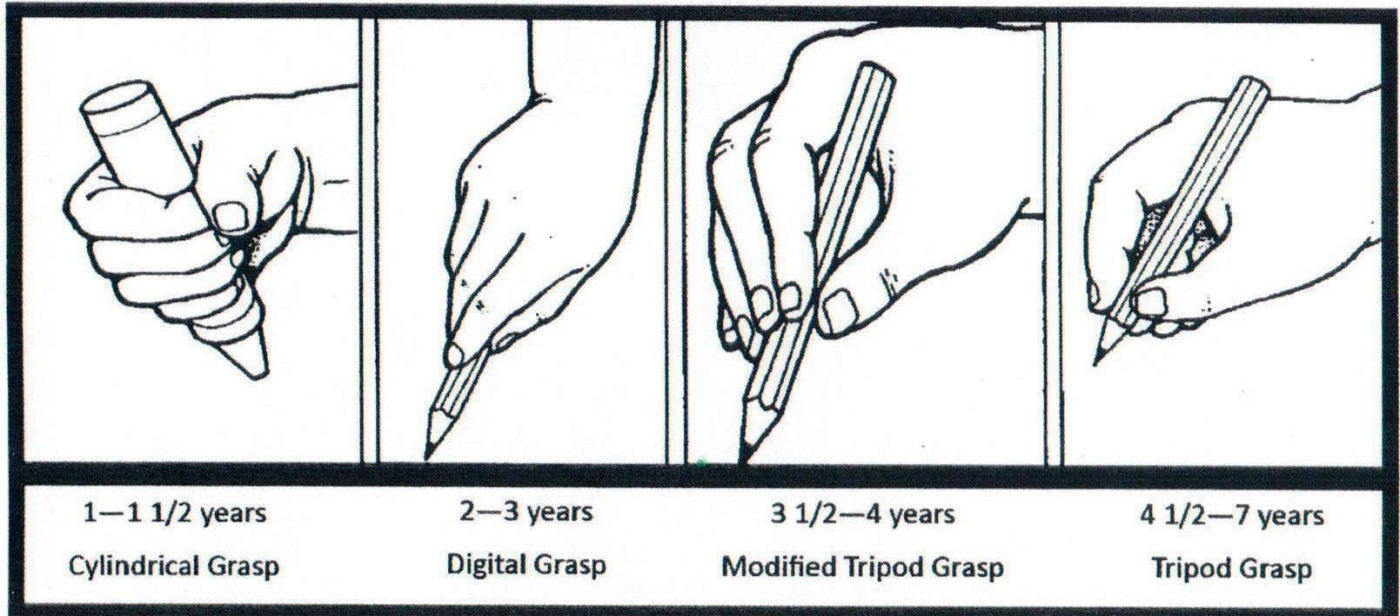
## \*O Dance

Make an O and an O  
and an O and an O  
Dance around and  
around and around.

by Nellie Edge



## Developing Small Motor Skills and an Efficient Pencil Grip Are Important Parts of Learning How to Write—and Enjoying the Process!



(This drawing shows typical progression of preschool development of pencil grasp. We were not able to locate its source.)

Dear Parents,

**Good handwriting matters, beginning with a good pencil grasp!** *If handwriting motions are not efficient, it interferes with the whole writing process.*

As your child develops a better pencil grasp, **the writing process becomes easier.** It is normal for children to enter kindergarten with a wide range of fine-motor development. **Some children start the year with an efficient pencil grasp,** and others are developing one. This is because children's finger muscles develop with time and experience.

**We are asking you to support your child in learning an efficient pencil grasp:**

- Teach your child how to hold crayons, draw, and color within lines.
- Then, provide many opportunities to fingerspell, use scissors, tweezers, pencils, pens, and small building toys.
- We want learning this important skill to be a positive experience!

**Why is a good pencil grip so important?** *So we can write better and faster and so our finger muscles won't get tired.*

Parents as Partners allows us to give your child the life-long habit of efficient handwriting!

With appreciation,

# How to Make Fingerspelling Cards and Name Ticket Models

We recommend mounting and laminating these (with fingerspelling on one side and Name Ticket models on the other). Make them all the same color and size to fit into a pocket chart. Students fingerspell and name letters daily.

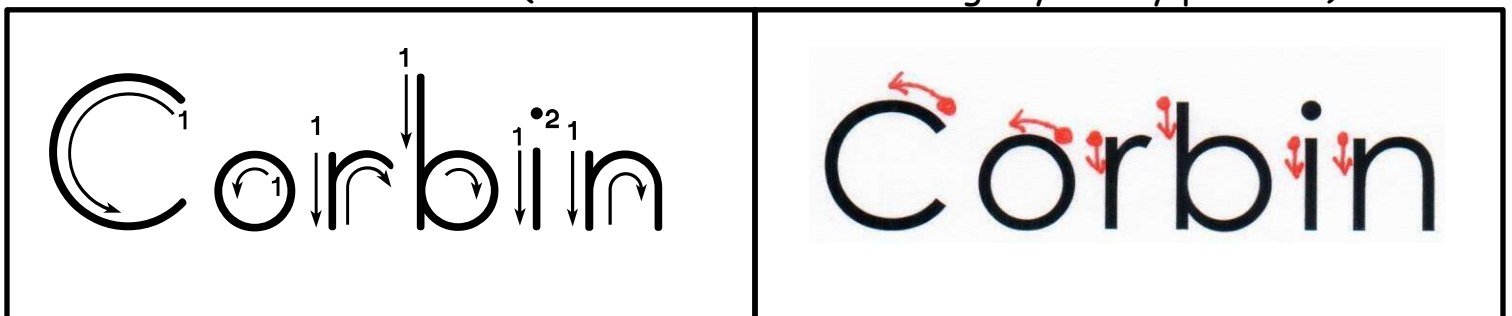


The *Fingerletters* font may be purchased from Educational Fontware, Inc. 1-800-806-2155. Go to [www.educationalfontware.com](http://www.educationalfontware.com), on left side of page click on "Buy New Academic Single User License;" in center of page, scroll down to "Nellie Edge Special - Finger Letters only, no CD, \$5." Click on "Buy Now" (with credit card.)

## How to make name/fingerspelling cards:

1. Insert a one-column table into the document.
2. Use *Ball-and-Stick* font (or similar, such as *Century Gothic*) for letters in approximately size 80-90 font, bold. Size will depend on length of name.
3. Place a space between each letter.
4. For fingerspelling underneath, use font *Fingerletters* in approximately size 90 (or a size that matches the letters above it). Center justify. For ease in reading, do not bold *Fingerletters*.

## Name Ticket Model (make a second one for nightly family practice)



The *ZB Manuscript with Arrows* font may be purchased from Zaner-Bloser. [www.zaner-bloser.com/zb-fontsonline-plus](http://www.zaner-bloser.com/zb-fontsonline-plus). This online program allows you to create worksheets in manuscript and/or cursive. **We do not expect children to prematurely write on traditional forms of penmanship paper** that displays the dotted mid-line as this may not be developmentally appropriate for most children until late kindergarten or first grade.

See Handwriting page at [www.nellieedge.com](http://www.nellieedge.com).

Breathe. Think. Focus. Do your very best name writing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

## **I Always Start My Letters**

(tune: If You Are Happy and You Know It)

I always start my letters at the top  
(The top!)

I always start my letters at the top  
(The top!)

When I write another letter

I get better, better, better,

If I always start my letters at the top  
(The top!)

traditional

# I Can Prepare My Brain for Good Handwriting



## **Breathe:**

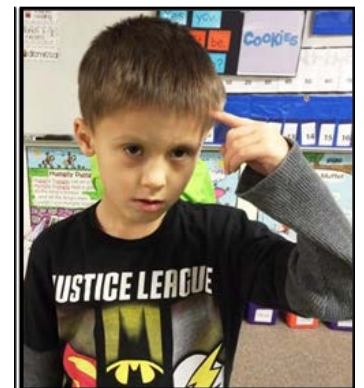
Place both open hands, palms in and left hand above right, on the chest and move them simultaneously on and off the chest several times.

*Memory aid: Indicates the expansion and contraction of the chest when breathing.*

## **Think:**

Make a counterclockwise circle with the right index finger just in front of the forehead.

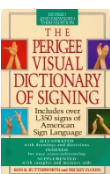
*Memory aid: indicates action in the mind.*



**Focus:** Hold both flat hands at the sides of the face with palms facing; then move them both forward simultaneously.

*Memory aid: Suggests concentration in one direction without deviating.*

The more you practice  
The better you get!



Language from *The Perigee Visual Dictionary of Signing* by Rod R. Butterworth and Mickey Flodin. This is the **one** dictionary every class needs! N.E.