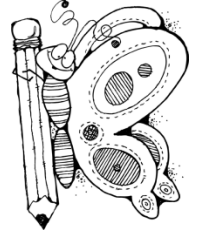


Although printing is not a requirement to enter kindergarten, many young children are interested in learning how to write. If your child shows an interest in handwriting / printing, please follow the guidelines listed below. Following specific handwriting guidelines will help your child learn the proper letter formation which will result in neat, correct and clear handwriting. Please read the guidelines below and use the attached diagrams to help your child with pencil grip and correct letter formation.



- Most letters begin at the top.
- Discourage starting letters from the bottom as it is very difficult to “retrain” the brain to begin each letter at the top.
- Pencil grip – “pinch” the pencil using the thumb and index finger, pencil should “rest” on the middle finger as a pillow. Encourage a “comfortable grip” rather than a “tight hold” of the pencil with the palm of the hand.
- Your child should hold the pencil within the bottom quarter of the pencil.
- When writing, the wrist and elbow of the writing hand should be on the table. The other hand should hold the paper in place.

Please note that the attached handwriting guideline uses lines to show where each letter begins and how it is properly formed. As children are beginning to write, they have more success when no lines are on the paper. Lined paper will be introduced mid-way in kindergarten. Many young children favor writing in all capital letters. However, please know that most print is written with capitals in the beginning of sentences and lowercase throughout the rest, so your child should be familiar with both letter forms. In kindergarten, your child will learn to write his / her name using a capital at the beginning and the rest of the letters lowercase.

Thank you for following these handwriting guidelines, your child is the one who wins!

