



Merton Primary School

4 Year Kindergarten

The Merton Community School district offers am and pm sessions of Four Year Old Kindergarten (4K).

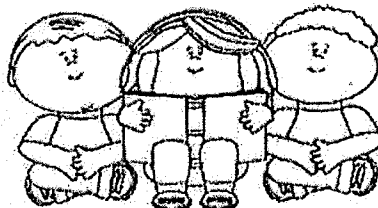
Statement

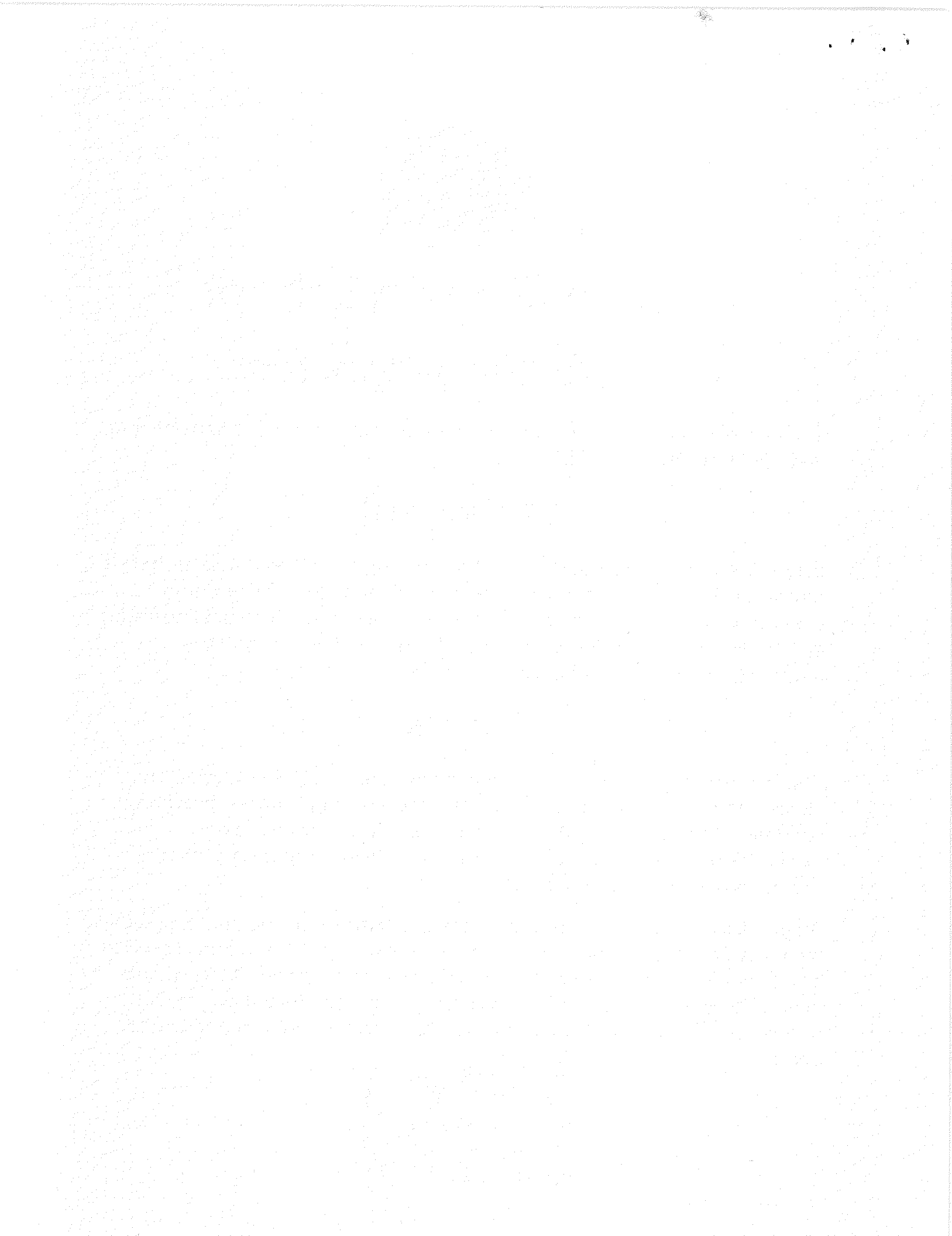
In Four-Year-Old-Kindergarten we view learning not as an outcome, but as a process. The classroom environment should facilitate the learning process, providing children experiences that begin to construct knowledge and understanding of multiple skills, such as creativity, cognition, personal, social, and physical development.

Goals

Children develop and learn in different ways and at different times. The classroom environment should facilitate the learning process, providing children with experiences that begin to construct knowledge and understanding of multiple skills, such as creativity, cognition, personal, social and physical development.

Target skills and content areas are integrated into learning centers guided by a play based philosophy. Children are encouraged to learn and grow in a developmentally appropriate and nurturing atmosphere. Assessments are made by observing the child as he/she demonstrates skills through hands-on activities, work samples, play, and interaction with adults and peers.





What will the day look like?

8:50-11:50 morning session

12:50-3:50 afternoon session

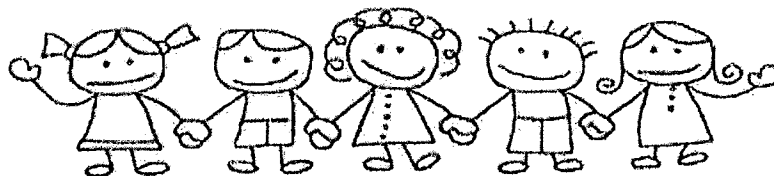
4K is offered in a three hour session, morning and afternoon.
The 4K curriculum is child centered and play based.

Handwriting, literacy, Second Step, and phonemic awareness activities are used in planning the 4K curriculum. Language and readiness based activities are designed specifically for the early learner. Skills and content areas are integrated into learning centers that are guided by a play-based philosophy.

Children are encouraged to learn and grow in a developmentally appropriate and nurturing environment.

Rich productive play experiences enable children to:

problem solve increase creativity develop readiness skills
promote social and emotional growth enhance physical development
develop language and communication



4K Highlights

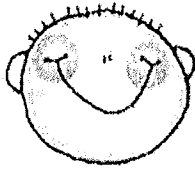
Library Art MakerSpace Music PhyEd

3 Holiday Parties Home/School projects Monthly newsletter

4K Social Birthdays 2 Field trips Celebration Day

How do I know if my child is ready?

Wisconsin State Law requires that a child be four years old before September 1 in order to attend 4K. Early entrance is not an option. Many parents question whether their child is ready to enter a four year old kindergarten. Consider the following characteristics and abilities:



likes to play with other children

is toilet trained

is able to share information

likes to listen to stories

identifies some colors or shapes

can follow a simple direction or rule

attempts basic self care skills (ie dressing self, wiping self....)

participates in an activity for 10-15 minutes



If you are still unsure, please contact the school principal for a conference and a program visitation.

The classroom teachers, school psychologist, speech clinicians and parent referrals are available to help you with your decision.

Welcome to the Merton Community

Merton Primary School: W28460 Sussex Road - Hartland, WI 53029

Mailing Address: PO Box 15 - Merton,, Wisconsin 53056

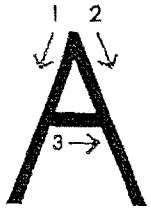
www.merton.k12.wi.us

Phone: 262-538-2227

Fax: 262-538-3937



Capital Formation All letters and numbers should be written from the top down.



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Big Line
Little Line



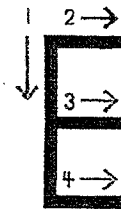
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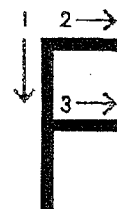
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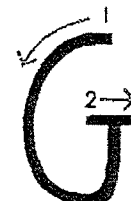
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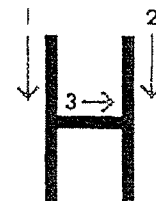
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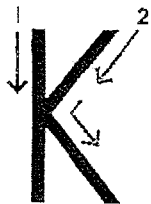
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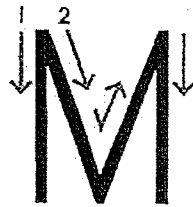
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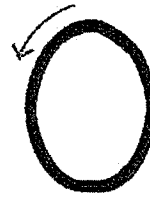
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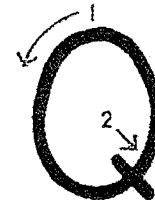
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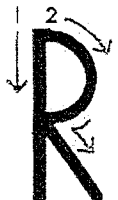
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Big Curve
Go around
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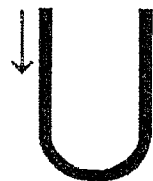
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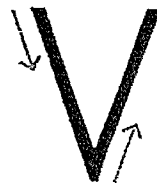
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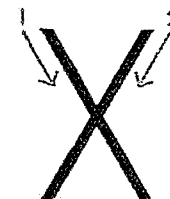
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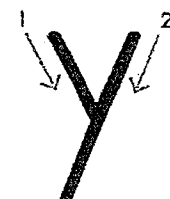
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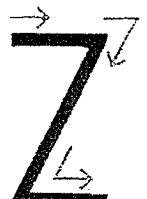
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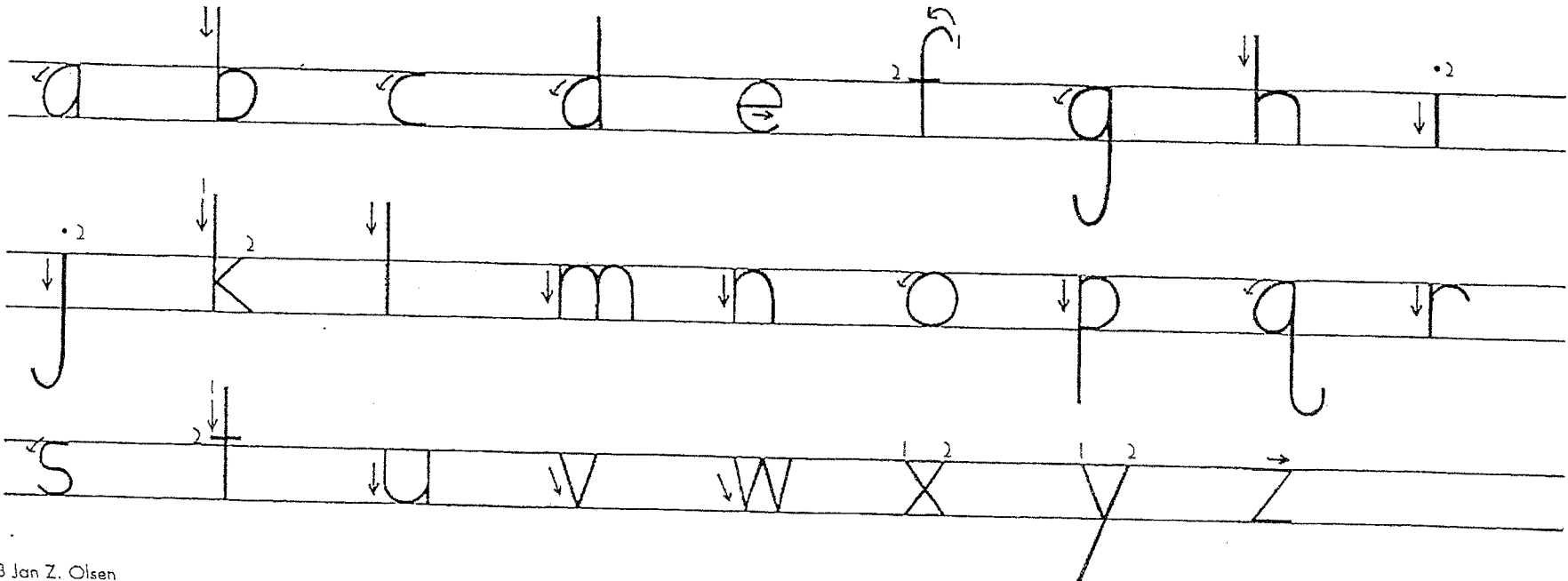
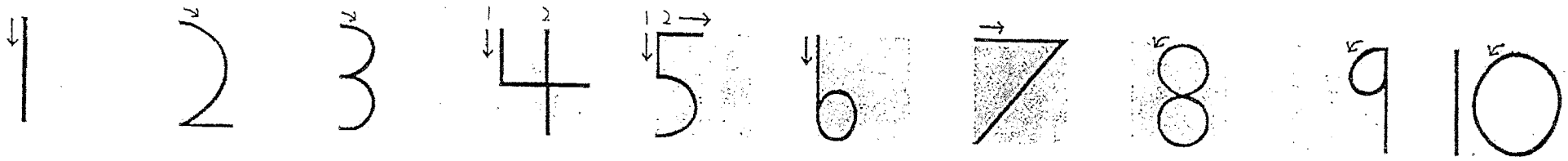
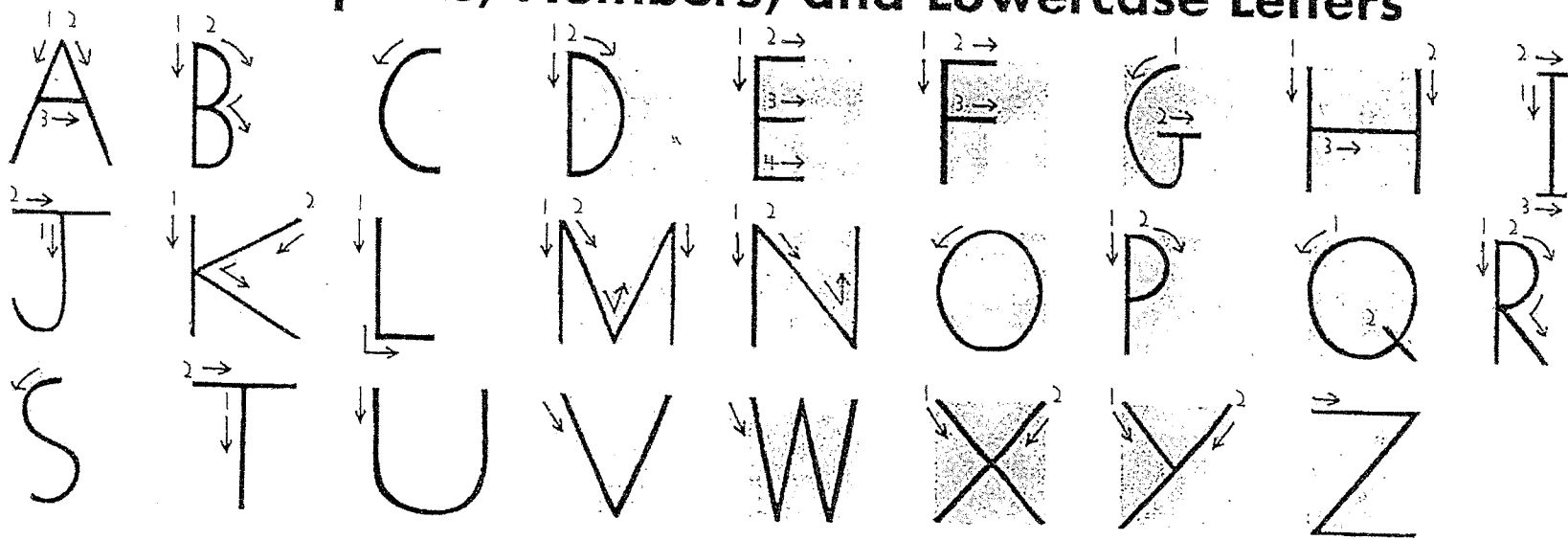


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Capitals, Numbers, and Lowercase Letters





Picking Up My Pencil

Dear Families,

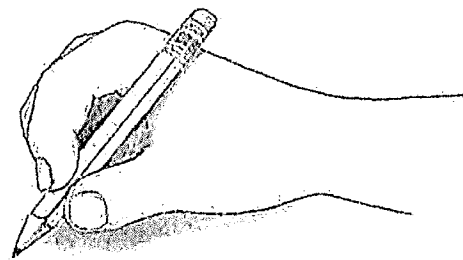
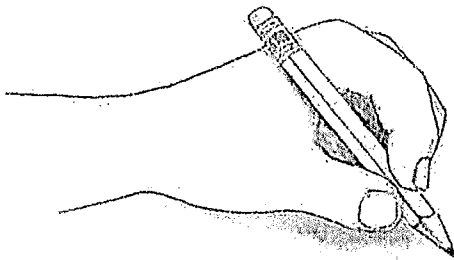
We are working on holding our pencils correctly at school. The standard ways for children to hold their pencils are illustrated below. Some children like to pinch with the thumb and pointer. That's the tripod (three-pinch with thumb and pointer finger, pencil rests on the middle finger). Others like the quadropod (four-pinch with thumb and pointer/middle fingers together, pencil rests on ring finger). If you write using a grip that is different than tripod or quadropod, alter your grip for practice with your child. Children love to imitate adults and will copy you. The "Flip the Pencil Trick" is a fun way to practice positioning the pencil correctly.

Tripod Grip

Eraser points to **left** shoulder.

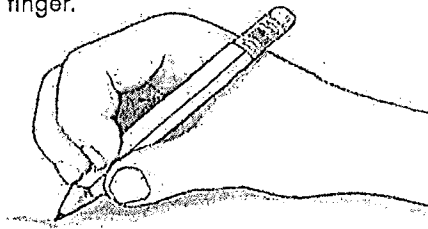
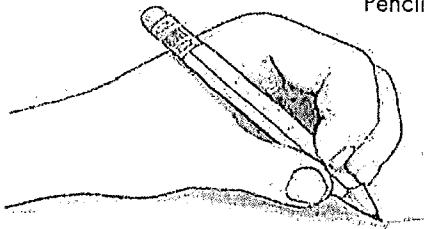
Standard grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index finger**.
Pencil rests on middle finger.

Eraser points to **right** shoulder.



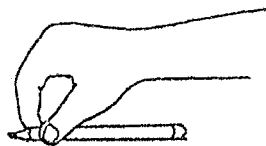
Quadropod Grip

Alternate grip: Hold pencil with **thumb + index and middle fingers**.
Pencil rests on ring finger.

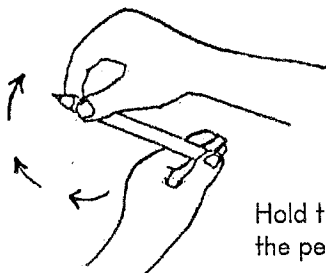


Flip the Pencil Trick

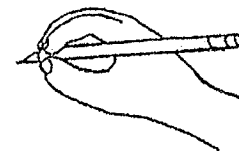
This is a fun way to practice placing the fingers correctly. Children like to learn it and it puts the pencil in the correct position. (Illustrated for right-handed children.)



Place pencil on table pointing away from you. Pinch the pencil on the point where the paint meets the wood.

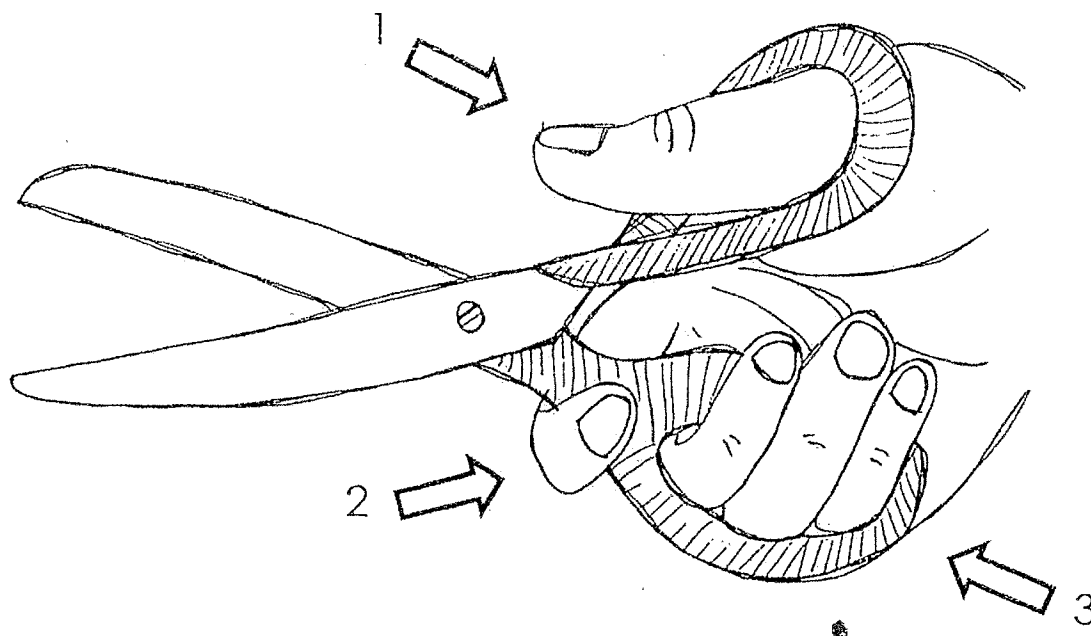


Hold the eraser and twirl the pencil around.



Voilà!
Correct grip.

SCISSOR GRIP



- 1) Thumb through the small top hole
- 2) Index finger holding the bottom of scissors
- 3) Last three fingers through the big bottom hole

Always point scissors AWAY from body and use your "helper hand" to hold and move the paper.

SCISSOR fine Motor Activities:

- Play dough
- Beading
- Lacing
- Chopsticks
- Hole punching
- Tongs/tweezers



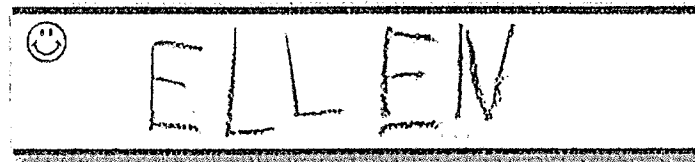
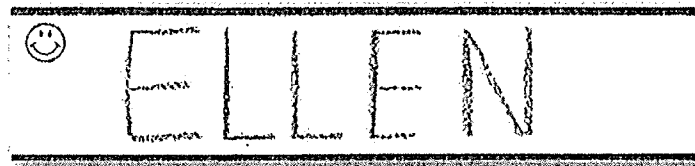
Help Me Write My Name

Children love their names! Does your child recognize their name? Do you see them trying to write their name? Teaching children to write their name depends on two things: age and readiness.

Capital Name

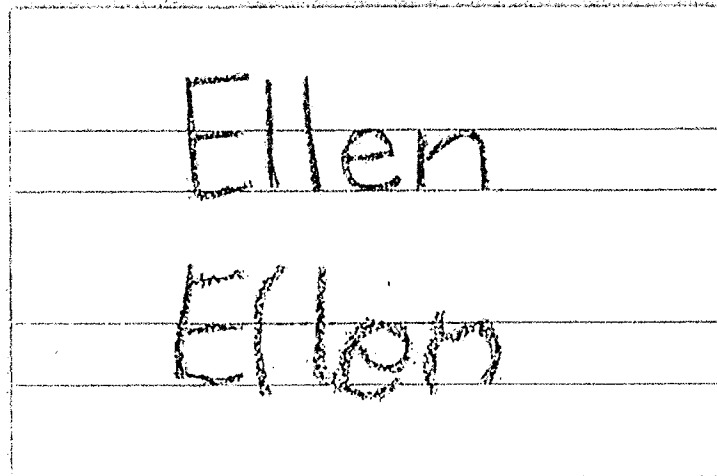
Your child won't always write in capitals, but it's the easiest way for them to start. This is especially true for your struggling writers or children with special needs. You can explain that there are two ways to write a name. The big letter way and the little letter way. Show them both, but focus on capitals first. Explain to them that when their hands get stronger, they can learn the other way, too.

1. Teach name in capitals with careful demonstration and imitation activities.
2. Put your strip above your child's strip. Demonstrate each letter on your strip and wait for your child to imitate you. Do this letter by letter (see below).



Title Case Name

When you feel your child has had sufficient practice with their capitals, it's time to add lowercase letters. Most children look forward to learning this new skill. Teach title case name using demonstration and imitation on double lines. When teaching their name in title case, consider using paper with wide double lines to give your child guidance. Use 8 1/2" x 11" paper with double lines drawn about 1.5 inches apart (see below).



* Remember to tell your child to always start their letters at the top!

101 Fine Motor Ideas

1. Use a hole punch to punch a certain number of holes in a piece of paper.
2. Use a pipette to transfer water from one container to another.
3. Stack small wooden blocks into the tallest tower you can make.
4. Stretch and place loom bands on jumbo craft sticks.
5. Pick up craft pom poms with jumbo child tweezers.
6. Peel small stickers up and fill up a pre-drawn shape with them.
7. Practice opening and closing pink foam hair curlers.
8. Push pipe cleaners through the holes in a colander.
9. String pony beads on a crazy straw.
10. Squeeze a turkey baster and try to blow a cotton ball across the table.
11. Water plants with a squeeze water sprayer.
12. Braid yarn to make Rapunzel hair and then use scissors to cut the hair.
13. Peel a hard-boiled egg at snack time.
14. Make a paper chain.
15. Roll strips of paper on a pencil to make them curly.
16. Hide dry beans in a pile of playdoh then search for them.
17. Play with clay instead of playdoh.
18. Use nuts and bolts from the Hardware store in the building center.
19. Stack and build with small cups.
20. Button and unbutton clothes on a doll.
21. Use a geoboard to build shapes with rubber bands.
22. Use legos to make the letters of the alphabet.
23. Glue Velcro dots on the end of craft sticks. Build something with the sticks.
24. Sprinkle confetti onto a table. Use wide paintbrushes to sweep the confetti into a certain area.
25. Put magnetic letters inside Easter eggs. Open an egg, name the letter, and close the egg.
26. Write numerals on pieces of cardboard. Clip that many clothespins on the cardboard.
27. Turn over a sand timer and see how many paper clips you can clip to a sheet of paper before time is up.
28. Make a necklace using yarn and uncooked ziti noodles.
29. Stick a piece of uncooked spaghetti into a ball of playdoh so that it sticks up straight. Place pony beads on the spaghetti to make a pattern.
30. String large and small paper clips together to make a long chain.
31. Mix up a variety of padlocks and keys. See how quickly you can get each lock open by using the correct keys.
32. Set out an ice cube tray, child tweezers, and a bowl of pom poms. See how quickly you can pick up one pom pom at a time and place it in a section of the ice cube tray until the whole tray is full.
33. Stick toothpicks in a styrofoam ball to make a porcupine.
34. Have a Matchbox car wash with small toothbrushes, soap, and water.
35. Tear paper and make a mosaic picture out of it.
36. Soak some sponges and wring them out seeing how dry you can get them.
37. Roll tissue paper into balls and glue each ball down on a page.

101 Fine Motor Ideas

38. Squeeze a lemon or orange and see how much juice you can get from it.
39. Make a mini book by stapling several pages together.
40. Use a push pin to poke holes around the outline of a picture.
41. Pick up pennies one at a time and place them in a piggy bank.
42. Pop bubbles on bubble wrap.
43. Use cookie cutters to cut playdoh.
44. Use a toy hammer to hammer golf tees into a piece of Styrofoam.
45. Cut up straws and string them on yarn to make a necklace.
46. Make a Froot Loop necklace.
47. Trace around your hand with a pencil.
48. Tear pieces of masking tape and then stick them to a large sheet of paper.
49. Sort a pile of small objects into groups (paper clips, rubber bands, and marbles)
50. Use yarn to sew a lacing card.
51. Draw a monster on the window with a dry erase marker. Then, use a spray bottle to spray the monster with water and melt it.
52. Place lots of pennies face down on the table. Try to turn over one penny at a time by picking it up without sliding it to the edge of the table.
53. Cut pictures out a magazine.
54. Pick up pom poms with tweezers and drop them down a paper towel tube.
55. Wrap rubber bands around cut pool noodles.
56. Drop liquid watercolor paint onto coffee filters using eye droppers.
57. Peel masking tape off a table.
58. Tie knots in a piece of yarn.
59. String your name using lacing alphabet beads.
60. Clip Barbie clothes onto a small clothesline using clothespins.
61. Build pictures out of snap cubes.
62. Make a picture out of stickers.
63. Push toothpicks through the holes in a parmesan cheese shaker.
64. Weave a placemat by weaving long strips of paper together.
65. Use toothpicks and marshmallows to build shapes.
66. Paint a picture using q-tips as paintbrushes.
67. Use a spoon to scoop up pony beads and transfer them to a different container.
68. Thread pony beads on a pipe cleaner to make a pattern.
69. Wrap yarn around and around a piece of cardboard cut into a shape.
70. Scoop soil into a pot. Pick up a few seeds and plant them.
71. Put together a 20-25 piece puzzle.
72. Use decorative scissors to cut paper into fancy pieces.
73. Spread out contact paper sticky side up. Make a picture by sticking natural objects (leaves, twigs, acorns, etc.) to it.

101 Fine Motor Ideas

74. Make snakes and eggs by rolling playdoh into long snakes and egg-like balls.
75. Peel and tear colorful washi tape and use it to make a picture.
76. Use chop sticks to eat with.
77. Make the letters of your name out of Wikki stix.
78. Use Bingo dabbers to paint a picture.
79. Drive a toy car along a giant letter or number cutout.
80. Use a rolling pin to roll out dough.
81. Use decorative hole punchers to punch out pictures. Then glue the cut outs onto a piece of paper.
82. Build something with legos.
83. Peel star stickers up and then use them to make your own constellation on black paper.
84. Use a clothespin to pick up and transfer cotton balls from one bowl to another.
85. Practice opening and closing storage containers (plastic food bins, Ziploc bags, etc.)
86. Use a toothpick to draw a design in some playdoh.
87. Pick up a craft pom pom with a clothespin. Dip it in paint and dab paint on a piece of paper using the pom pom.
88. Cup your hands together to shake two dice. Roll them and add up the dots.
89. Make shadow puppets using your hands and a flashlight.
90. Use your index finger to pop bubbles.
91. Use only your thumb and index finger to pick up marbles and transfer them to a jar.
92. Go outside and use scissors to give the grass a haircut.
93. Stack pennies as high as you can to make a tower.
94. Put together a Mr. Potato Head toy.
95. Use a water gun to squirt liquid water colors on the sidewalk to paint a picture.
96. Try to trace the outline of a picture with liquid glue by squeezing the glue bottle and following the line.
97. Crumple paper and throw it like a snowball. Then unroll it and smooth it back out.
98. Use a computer keyboard to type the letters of the alphabet in order.
99. Blow up a balloon and then tie a knot in it.
100. Finger paint.
101. Use a marker to connect dots on a piece of paper.