



Create Your Own Book

Tiny Authors

Beginner: Have your child tell you a story using photographs or drawings and make it into a book.

[Tip]: Story topics include family, friends, pets, and imaginary creatures.

Intermediate: Create a book using photographs or drawings, and have your child practice printing words about the story.

[Tip]: Try tracing, copying, or printing, depending on your child's interest.

Experienced: Create a picture book and write short sentences for each page using beginning, middle, and end storylines.

[Tip]: Plan out your story before writing it.

Why is this important? This activity helps children become familiar with storylines.

Looking for more information? Scroll down to check out our Handwriting Guide, Sight Words sheet, English Letter Sounds resource, and Story Templates!

Looking for more information? Scroll down to view our Handwriting Guide, Sight Words sheet, English Letter Sounds resources, as well as our printable Story Templates!

References: Campana, K. & Dresang, E. T. (2012). Bridging the early literacy gulf. Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 48(1), 104.

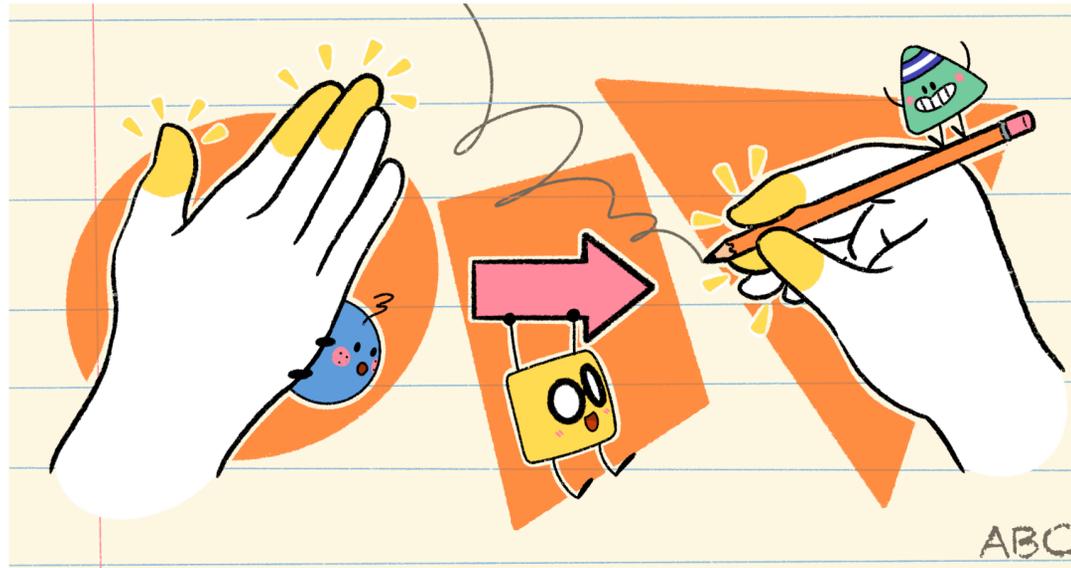
Fountas and Pinnell, Continuum of Literacy Learning. 2011

Handwriting Guide

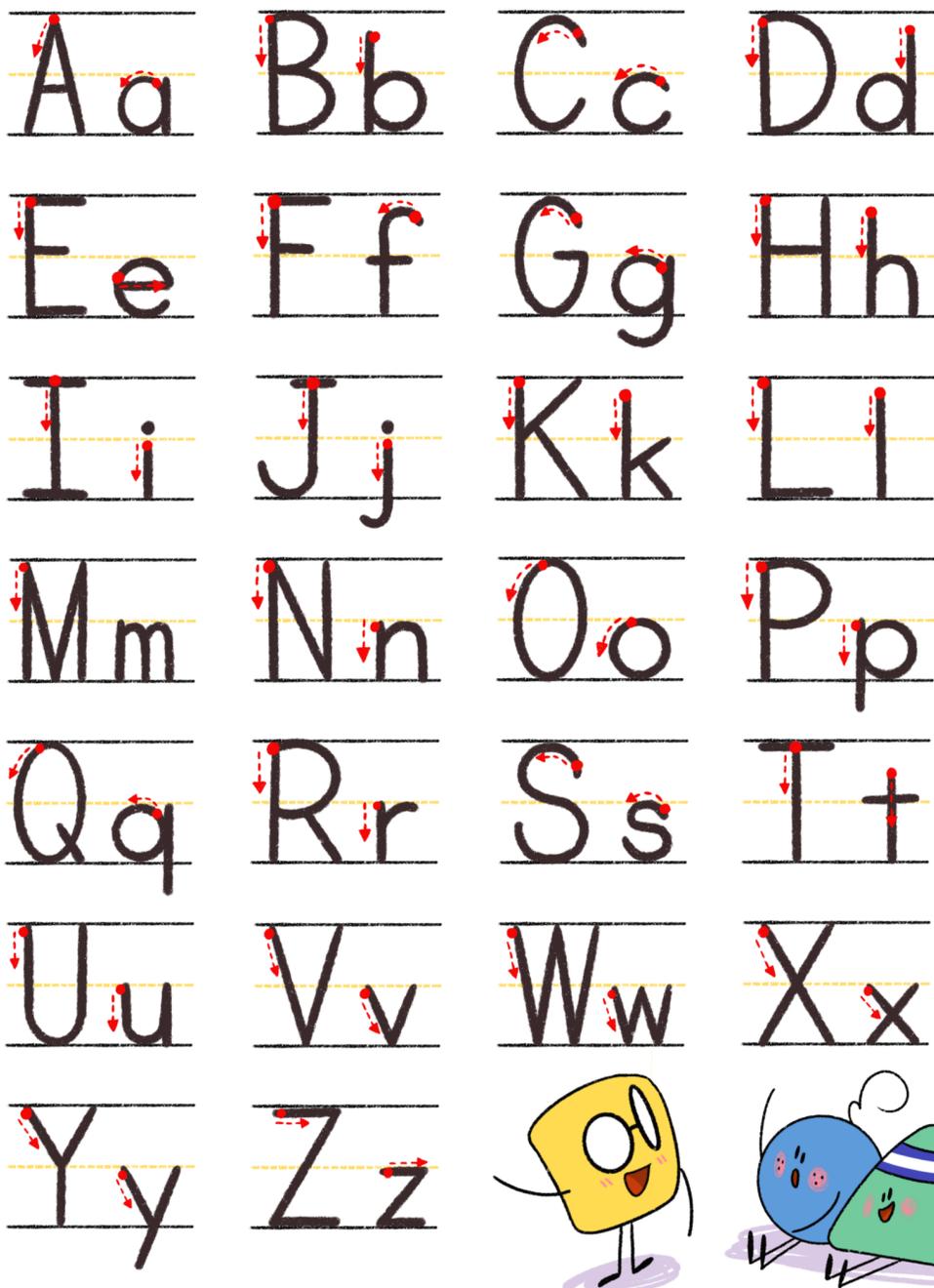
When learning how to write, it helps to be consistent in the approach to letter formation. Not only does holding a pencil correctly put less strain on muscles of the hand and arm, but learning to form letters based on the chart below can also help make writing quicker and easier to read!

The goal is to create a triangle with your fingers:

1. Rest the pencil on top of your middle finger.
2. Lightly pinch the pencil, with your thumb and index fingers.
3. Rest your pinky on the table to hold the pencil at a comfortable angle (to see what you are writing, and avoid hurting your hand).



If you speak multiple languages, talk about possible differences in reading and writing conventions with your child. For example, in English and French we read and write from left to right, and top to bottom. In Arabic we read and write from right to left, and top to bottom.



Letter Formation Guide

This chart shows the fastest way of forming the letters of the English alphabet. Start with your pencil on the red dot and follow the arrow. Have fun practicing the letters using a pencil and paper, a tray of sand and your finger, or with playdough!

Questions? toybox@winnipeg.ca

Facebook Instagram YouTube @toyboxmanitoba

Visit our Website: www.toyboxmanitoba.ca

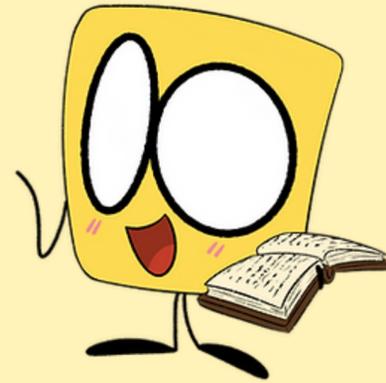
English Letter Sounds

In the English language each letter of the alphabet makes specific sounds. Knowing the sounds associated with each letter helps to break down words, which is an important skill when learning to read and spell.

Some letters like B, D, J and K have the sound that they make at the beginning of their name.

Letters like F, S, L, and M have the sound that they make at the end of their name.

Letters like G, H, W and Y are unique, as the sound that they make is not heard in their name.



Some letters can sound soft or hard. For example, the letter C can sound soft like an S in the word "city" or hard like a K in the word "cat."

Point out letters in books, on street signs, and labels to practice the letter sounds you see.

Creating more opportunities for practice helps early readers connect letters to the sounds that they make.

English Sight Words are commonly used in beginner books, because repetition is helpful when learning to read. Learning to recognize these sight words automatically can help develop better fluency (flow) when reading.

Aa - /a/ apple - /ā/ acorn	Bb - /b/ bear - /b/ book	Cc - /k/ cat - /s/ cinnamon - /ch/ chair - /sh/ chef	Dd - /d/ door - /d/ deer
Ee - /i/ ear - /e/ egg	Ff - /f/ face - /f/ friend	Gg - /g/ gold - /j/ giraffe	Hh - /h/ horse - /h/ hand
Ii - /ī/ icicle - /i/ iguana	Jj - /j/ jungle - /j/ journal	Kk - /k/ key - /k/ kangaroo	Ll - /l/ leather - /l/ lake
Mm - /m/ machine - /m/ minute	Nn - /n/ nickel - /n/ nest	Oo - /o/ ostrich - /ō/ oval	Pp - /p/ pencil - /f/ phone
Qq - /k/ quack - /k/ question	Rr - /r/ rabbit - /r/ rocket	Ss - /s/ salamander - /sh/ shoe	Tt - /t/ table - /th/ thunder - /TH/ there
Uu - /ə/ ultimate - /ə/ under	Vv - /v/ vowel - /v/ vanilla	Ww - /w/ winter - /w/ which - /h/ who	Xx - /z/ xylophone - /eks/ X-ray
Yy - /y/ yesterday - /y/ yarn	Zz - /z/ zebra - /z/ zest		

Questions? toybox@uwinnipeg.ca




 @toyboxmanitoba

Visit our Website: www.toyboxmanitoba.ca



English Sight Words are commonly used in beginner books, because **repetition** is helpful when learning to read. Learning to recognize these sight words automatically can help develop better fluency (flow) when reading.

Beginner			Beginner - Intermediate			Intermediate		
A	I	Run	All	Into	Soon	After	Her	Put
And	In	Said	Am	Like	That	Again	Him	Round
Away	Is	See	Are	Must	There	An	His	Some
Big	It	The	At	New	They	Any	Hers	Stop
Blue	Jump	Three	Ate	No	This	As	How	Take
Can	Little	To	Be	Now	Too	Ask	Just	Thank
Come	Look	Two	Black	On	Under	By	Know	Them
Down	Make	Up	Brown	Our	Want	Could	Let	Then
Find	Me	We	But	Out	Was	Every	Live	Think
For	My	Where	Came	Please	Well	Fly	May	Walk
Funny	Not	Yellow	Did	Pretty	Went	From	Of	Were
Go	One	You	Do	Ran	What	Give	Old	When
Help	Play		Eat	Ride	White	Going	Once	
Here	Red		Four	Saw	Who	Had	Open o ver	
			Get	Say	Will	Has		
			Good	She	With			
			Have	So	Yes			
			He	Soon				

Intermediate - Advanced			Advanced		
Always	Gave	These	About	Grow	Own
Around	Goes	Those	Better	Hold	Pick
Because	Green	Upon	Bring	Hot	Seven
Been	Its	Us	Carry	Hurt	Shall
Before	Made	Use	Clean	If	Show
Best	Many	Very	Cut	Keep	Six
Both	Off	Wash	Done	Kind	Small
Buy	Or	Which	Draw	Laugh	Start
Call	Pull	Why	Drink	Light	Ten
Cold	Read	Wish	Eight	Long	Today
Does	Right	Work	Fall	Much	Together
Don't	Sing	Would	Far	Myself	Try
Fast	Sit	Write	Full	Never	Warm
First	Sleep	Your	Got	Only	
Five	Tell				
Found	Their				

Adapted from: Sight Words. (n.d.) *Dolch Sight Words*. <https://sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/#lists>.



Story Ideas and Sentence Starters

All About Me

1. My name is...
2. My eyes are ____.
3. I like to...

My Family

1. There are ____ people in my family.
2. Our family likes to...
3. A special day in our family is...

My Favourite Things

1. My favourite food is...
2. My favourite colour is...
3. My favourite thing to do for fun is ____.

My Summer Break

1. This summer I...
2. The best part of summer was...
3. My favourite summer activity is...

Fictional Story Prompts

1. Once upon a time...
2. On a dark and stormy night...
3. I had a dream that...



TOYBOX

Title:

By:

