Kidz Skillz

Program Guide

FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

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INTRODUCTION LETTER

Welcome,

Thank you for using **The Simple Handwriting Program™** by Kidz Skillz LLC. **The Simple Handwriting Program™** was designed to be easy and inexpensive and was developed to help both regular and special education children learn how to write the alphabet. Our progam makes teaching both uppercase and lowercase letters easier by reducing each letter into simple strokes that children can learn to print quickly.

Our main goal with each letter is for the learner to keep their pencil on the paper as much as possible and write with as few pencil movements as possible. This technique is helpful when your learner begins practicing cursive as well. Every letter comes with verbalizations to say out loud while teaching it to help the learner recognize the physical movements of each letter. The colors of the letters represent three categories of size and line placement. These categories are determined by where the letters are placed on the lines of the paper.

The Kidz Skillz: Simple Handwriting Booklet is available on our website and can be printed in both color and black and white.

If you are working with preschoolers, please teach the uppercase alphabet first. The use of this book is greatly enhanced by our companion video series, which you can access free of charge on YouTube or throughout the Kidz Skillz website. We hope you enjoy our program and that it significantly improves your learner's handwriting experience.

Sincerely,

THE TEAM AT
Kidz Skillz

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INSTRUCTIONS

Line placement is a key component of the program. Letters are separated into three categories based on whether they touch the top line or middle line or fall below the bottom line. These categories are color-coded to help children better visualize the concepts and should be the taught first with this program.

SKY DWELLERS (BLUE): Touch the top and bottom lines. This includes all uppercase letters and seven lowercase letters. [b d f h k l t]

GRASS GROWERS (GREEN): Touch the dotted line and bottom line. There are 14 grass grower letters. [a c e i m n o r s u v w x z]

ROOT DIGGERS (BROWN): Touch the dotted line and fall below the bottom line. There are five root digger letters. [g j p q y]

After line placement, you can begin teaching the letters within the Handwriting Booklet.

HELPFUL TIPS

✓ Put a color-coded line placement chart on the wall for the learner to refer back to and visualize the concept.

✓ Have the learner use broken crayons or small markers. This helps strengthen the intrinsic muscles of the hands and will increase the learner's ability to write better. If their hands are weak, they can also use Crayola's Pip-Squeaks markers.

✓ Each letter includes language prompts which reinforce each pencil stroke. The prompts should be recited as you and the learner work on each letter.

✓ When working on a letter, gather the learner sit around an easel with lined paper. Have the learner/s come up and use their bodies to make each letters using multiple learners if needed to complete the letter. This will add a movement aspect to the lesson and physically engages the learner/s. Afterwards, have the learner/s demonstrate the letters in the air with their fingers and practice on small chalkboards with small pieces of chalk. Finally, have the learner/s practice what they've learned on the handouts.

✓ Have your learner demonstrate that they can write each letter correctly before you move on to the next letter.

ORDER OF TEACHING

While alphabetical order is important for many things, it is counterintuitive when teaching handwriting to have learners go from a to b to c and so forth.

The Simple Handwriting Program™ tackles this issue by arranging and teaching letters in groups of similar stroke patterns. This method allows the learner to grasp the easiest letters first, providing a boost of confidence, then working towards harder letters. Combined with the language prompts, this method reinforces similar letter shapes, making it easier to transition from one letter to the next.

When beginning the program, Line Letters is the first lowercase group and contains the letters l, t, and i. Each letter starts with a straight line and is the simplest letters for learners to grasp and write. The quick success of learning these letters first will encourage your learner to continue learning and write more.

The following pages consist of the order of teaching, language prompts, and a student readiness sheet for The Simple Handwriting Program™ Order of Teaching. A set of alphabetical language prompts and a student readiness sheet will be attached at the end as well for those interested.

For more information about this program or other general questions, please visit www.kidzskillz.com or contact us at kidzskillz@gmail.com.

LOWERCASE
ORDER OF TEACHING

LINE LETTERS

l t i

Line Letters start with a straight line and
are the simplest letters to write.

HOOK-AND-HUMP LETTERS

r n m h

Hook-and-Hump Letters all start with a straight line down,
go back up the same line, and add a hook or a hump.

LINE-AND-CIRCLE LETTERS

b p

Line-and-Circle Letters start with a line and add a circle to the end.
These do not require retracing the first line.

MAGIC-c LETTERS

c o a s d g q

Magic-c Letters start with the letter "c".
"C" is magical because it can make so many different letters
and the pencil isn't picked up until the letter is done.

SLIDE LETTERS

v y w x z

Slide Letters can be fun, but can be difficult
because some letters slide both right and left.

TRICKY LETTERS

e u k f j

Tricky Letters are the trickiest of them all
and can fit into multiple categories above.

ORDER OF TEACHING

LINE LETTERS
L F E H T I
Line Letters start with a straight line and
are the simplest letters to write.

BOTTOM STARTERS
P B R D
Bottom Starters start from the bottom line.**

MAGIC-C LETTERS
C O Q G S
Magic-C Letters start with the letter "C".
"C" is magical because it can make so many different letters
and the pencil isn't picked up until the letter is done.

SLIDE LETTERS
A V Y W N M X Z
Slide Letters can be fun, but can be difficult
because some letters slide both right and left.

TRICKY LETTERS
K J U
Tricky Letters are the trickiest of them all
and can fit into multiple categories above.

**There have been many discussions about starting letters from the bottom line. Most argue that starting from the top and picking up the pencil multiple times helps children later learn cursive. However, 21 of the 52 cursive letters start at the bottom and only five cursive letters require picking up the pencil. Starting at the bottom can better prepare your learner and it's an overall improvement to previous methods.

LOWERCASE LANGUAGE PROMPTS

LINE LETTERS

l	big line down
t	big line down, little line across
i	little line down, give it a dot

HOOK-AND-HUMP LETTERS

r	little line down, come back up, make a hook
n	little line down, come back up, make a hump
m	little line down, come back up, make a hump (x2)
h	big line down, come back up, make a hump

LINE-AND-CIRCLE LETTERS

b	big line down, little around
p	big line up, little around

MAGIC-c LETTERS

c	make a "c"
o	make a "c", close it up
a	make a "c", go up, back down
d	make a "c", go up, up, up
q	make a "c", go up and a big line down
g	make a "c", go up, back down, curve back
s	make a little "c", and a backwards "c"

SLIDE LETTERS

v	slide down, slide up
w	slide down, slide up, slide down, slide up
y	slide down, big slide down
x	slide down, slide across
z	little line over, slide back, little line over

TRICKY LETTERS

e	little line over, and make a "c"
u	little line down, curve, little line up
j	big line down, curve back, give it a dot
f	big line up, give it a hook, little line across
k	big line down, put your pencil out and say "Hi-ya" (as you're sliding in and out)

UPPERCASE LANGUAGE PROMPTS

LINE LETTERS

L	big line down, little line over
F	big line down, little line over, little line over
E	big line down, little line over, little line over, little line over
H	big line down, big line down, little line across
T	big line down, little line over
I	big line down, little line over, little line over

BOTTOM STARTERS

D	big line up, big around
P	big line up, little around
B	big line up, little around, little around
R	big line up, little around, kick it out

MAGIC-C LETTERS

C	make a "C"
O	make a "C", close it up
Q	make a "C", close it up, little line across
G	make a "C", go up, go in
S	make a "c", make a backwards "c"

SLIDE LETTERS

A	slide up, slide down, little line across
N	big line up, slide down, big line up
M	big line up, slide down, slide up, big line down
V	slide down, slide up
W	slide down, slide up, slide down, slide up
Y	slide down, big slide down
X	slide down, slide across
Z	little line over, slide back, little line over

TRICKY LETTERS

U	big line down, curve, big line up
J	big line down, curve back, little line over
K	big line down, put your pencil out, and say "Hi-ya" (as you're sliding in and out)

STUDENT READINESS CHART

NAME:_____

l					L				
t					F				
i					E				
r					H				
n					T				
m					I				
h					D				
b					P				
p					B				
c					R				
o					C				
a					O				
d					Q				
q					G				
g					S				
s					A				
v					N				
w					M				
y					V				
x					W				
z					y				
e					X				
u					Z				
j					U				
f					J				
k					C				

LOWERCASE LANGUAGE PROMPTS

a	make a "c", go up, back down
b	big line down, little around
c	make a "c"
d	make a "c", go up, up, up
e	little line over, and make a "c"
f	big line up, give it a hook, little line across
g	make a "c", go up, back down, curve back
h	big line down, come back up, make a hump
i	little line down, give it a dot
j	big line down, curve back, give it a dot
k	big line down, put your pencil out and say "Hi-ya" (as you're sliding in and out)
l	big line down
m	little line down, come back up, make a hump (x2)
n	little line down, come back up, make a hump
o	make a "c", close it up
p	big line up, little around
q	make a "c", go up and a big line down
r	little line down, come back up, make a hook
s	make a little "c", and a backwards "c"
t	big line down, little line across
u	little line down, curve, little line up
v	slide down, slide up
w	slide down, slide up, slide down, slide up
x	slide down, slide across
y	slide down, big slide down
z	little line over, slide back, little line over

UPPERCASE LANGUAGE PROMPTS

A	slide up, slide down, little line across
B	big line up, little around, little around
C	make a "C"
D	big line up, big around
E	big line down, little line over (three times)
F	big line down, little line over, little line over
G	make a "C", go up, go in
H	big line down, big line down, little line across
I	big line down, little line over, little line over
J	big line down, curve back, little line over
K	big line down, put your pencil out, and say "Hi-ya" (as you're sliding in and out)
L	big line down, little line over
M	big line up, slide down, slide up, big line down
N	big line up, slide down, big line up
O	make a "C", close it up
P	big line up, little around
Q	make a "C", close it up, little line across
R	big line up, little around, kick it out
S	make a "c", make a backwards "c"
T	big line down, little line over
U	big line down, curve, big line up
V	slide down, slide up
W	slide down, slide up, slide down, slide up
X	slide down, slide across
Y	slide down, big slide down
Z	little line over, slide back, little line over

ALPHABETICAL
STUDENT READINESS CHART

NAME:_____

a					A				
b					B				
c					C				
d					D				
e					E				
f					F				
g					G				
h					H				
i					I				
j					J				
k					K				
l					L				
m					M				
n					N				
o					O				
p					P				
q					Q				
r					R				
s					S				
t					T				
u					U				
v					V				
w					W				
x					X				
y					Y				
z					Z				