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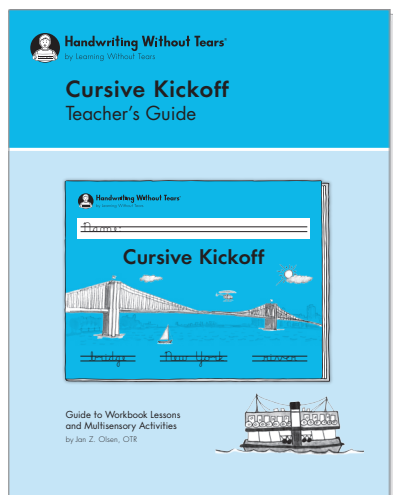
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# Teacher's Guide: What's Inside



Studies show that 86 percent of teachers are not taught how to teach handwriting. This teacher's guide can help every teacher succeed. We make it easy to create a learning environment in which your students are engaged, active participants.

## **Get Ready! Posture, Paper & Grip (p. 25)**

At the start of the school year, we pretest children and introduce activities that teach good habits for posture, paper placement, and grip.

## **Teaching Print Handwriting (p. 33)**

We teach effective, legible printing that makes a difference for students in the classroom and sets them up for success.

## **Teaching Cursive Handwriting (p. 67)**

We teach a clean, vertical style of cursive that is easy to teach and easy to learn.

## **Writing Activities (p. 149)**

Our writing activities provide children ample opportunities to apply their handwriting skills to word, sentence, and paragraph skills.

## **Numbers (p. 165)**

Numbers may be at the back of the teacher's guide, but like capitals, they are taught at the beginning of the year. Teach numbers during your math lessons.

## **Multisensory Activities (p.175)**

Each letter lesson contains multisensory activities, and in this section, you will find instructions on how to implement them in your classroom.

## **Differentiated Instruction (Throughout)**

At the bottom of each lesson, you will find ways to enrich each lesson, add support, or connect it to another subject.

## **Resources (p. 195)**

Important resources support your teaching throughout the year and help you guide, adjust, and monitor your instruction.



## **A Click Away**

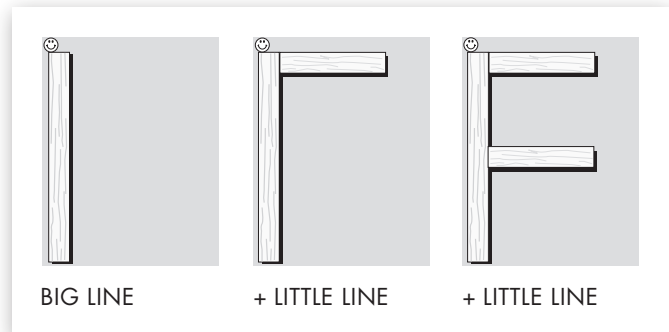
When you see a smiley face icon, you will find additional instructional resources, activities, and new tips online. Visit [hiit.LWTears.com/ext/TGCK/2018](http://hiit.LWTears.com/ext/TGCK/2018) to access teacher resources, including A Click Away.

# Workbook Design

We carefully plan every workbook page. Our workbooks are accessible and friendly, yet also promote excellence. We want children to practice correctly, so our workbook pages promote efficient, effective practice for each letter.

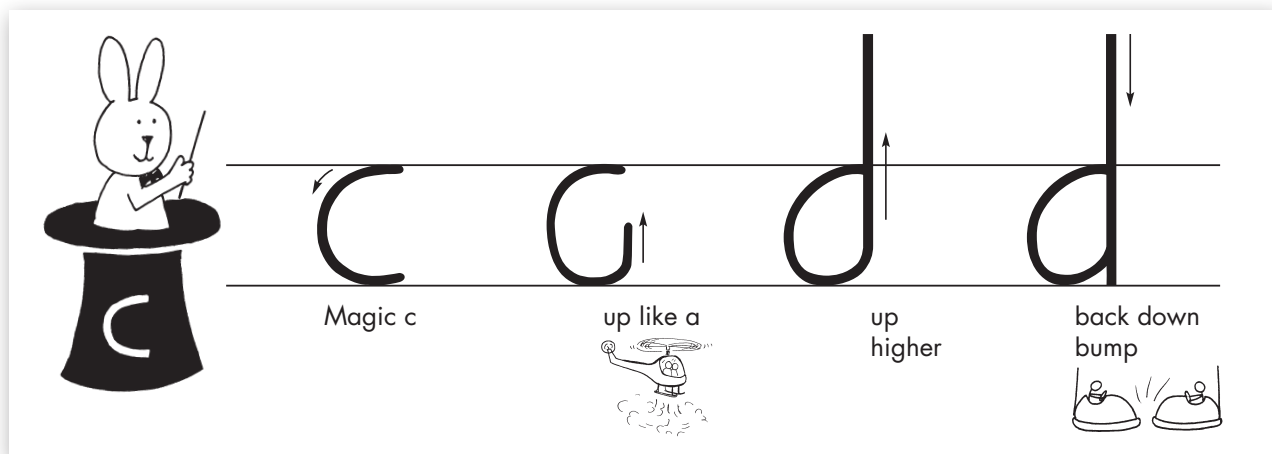
## Child Friendly, Simple Language

Our child-friendly language evolved in response to complicated letter formation terminology in other programs. When teaching letter formation, we eliminate language that assumes children understand left/right orientation, clockwise/counterclockwise, or forward/backward circles. We make it easy by using fewer, carefully selected words that all children know and understand.



## Large, Step-by-Step Models

It is much easier for children to understand how to form letters if you show them how, step by step. Our workbooks contain large, step-by-step images that show students how to make each part of every letter.



## Lefty Friendly

Our workbooks are lefty friendly. Teaching pages provide models on the left and right so left-handed children can easily see the model they are copying. Lefties never have to lift their hands or place them in an awkward position to see a model.

## Developmental Teaching Order

Teaching in a developmental order helps children master skills and boosts confidence. We teach the easiest skills first, then build on prior knowledge. We teach capitals first and follow with lowercase letters. We also teach in small groups of similar formation.

## Black & White, Simple, Clean Design & Illustrations

The black and white pages in our workbooks are clean and clear. We deliberately avoid visually confusing backgrounds, colored graphics, crowded pages, and multicolored lines. Our simple workbook pages are appealing and invite children to color and draw once they have finished the lesson.

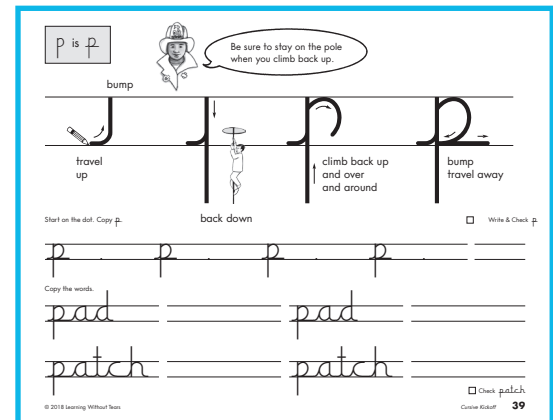
Our illustrations promote left-to-right directionality. This is a unique feature of our workbooks. The car, helicopter, horse, and other drawings move left to right across the page to encourage correct visual tracking and writing direction.

## Continuous, Meaningful Review

Children retain skills better if they have continuous, meaningful review. That's why each new letter is used in words and sentences that emphasize practice of the new letter and help children review and practice previously learned letters.

## Cross-Curricular Connections

In addition to handwriting, we want the pages to have connections to other grade-appropriate curricula. We created pages that help you teach handwriting and review other grade-appropriate skills.

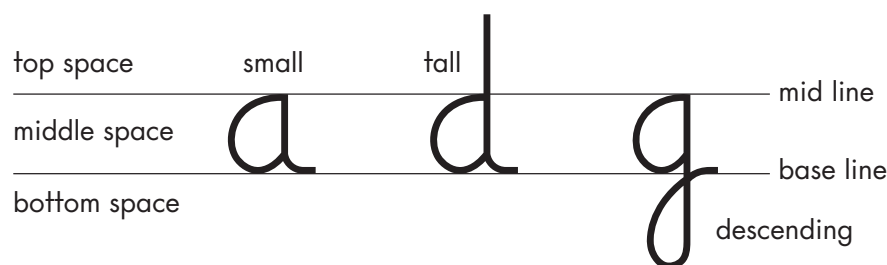


## Simple Spatial Organization

We begin by teaching capital letters and numbers with Gray Blocks. The Gray Blocks prevent reversals and help children learn how to place letters and numbers.

As children move to lowercase, our double lines foster handwriting success. The mid line is for size, and the base line is for placement. The middle space is for small letters, the top space is for tall letters, while the bottom space is for descending letters.

When children are learning to print, they need extra room to write. Our landscape style workbooks give them the space they need to write and develop good spacing habits.



## Line Generalization: Success on All Paper Styles

Our workbooks provide activities for children to experience different types of lined paper. We start them with simple double lines, then teach them to master all lines.

# Activity Design

This teacher's guide has plans and strategies for every activity. Multisensory activities can be found starting on p. 175. Here's a sample activity plan.

## ABOUT THE ACTIVITY

Introduction gives you background and guidance for the activity.

## MATERIALS

Materials list helps you organize and plan for the activity.

## ACTIVITY PLAN

Step-by-step directions, along with illustrations, to guide you through.

### Wet-Dry-Try for Lowercase Letters for Magic c – Print & Cursive

Using Wet-Dry-Try on the Blackboard with Double Lines is an innovative teaching strategy. The latest research on brain development supports this activity. This research calls for fewer elements (just two lines), modeling, sensory engagement, and immediate feedback (Sousa 2011).

#### Materials

- Blackboard with Double Lines\* (1 per child)
- Little Chalk Bits (1")
- Little Sponge Cubes (1/2")
- Little cups of water
- Paper towel pieces

#### Activity

##### 1. Prepare Blackboards

Write letter with chalk as a model to trace.

##### 2. Teacher's Part – Write f with Chalk

Use chalk to write a letter on double lines. Say the step-by-step directions.

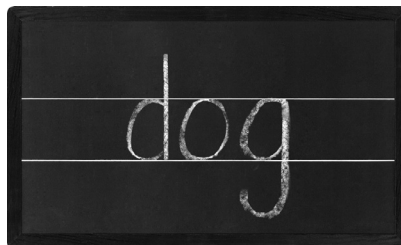
##### 3. Child's Part – Wet-Dry-Try

As the child does each part, say the step-by-step directions to guide the child. The child is encouraged to join in, saying the words.

**Wet:** The child uses a Little Sponge Cube to trace the letter.

**Dry:** The child uses a little piece of paper towel to trace the letter.

**Try:** The child uses a Little Chalk Bit to write the letter.



\*If you don't have a Blackboard with Double Lines, consider using our Double Line Writer on your whiteboard. This product is available at [LWTears.com](http://LWTears.com).

This teacher's guide has lesson plans and strategies for every workbook page. Here is a sample letter lesson.

## QR CODE

Scan the QR code or use the URL provided to take you directly to the multimedia elements of the lesson (requires access to HITT: The Handwriting Interactive Teaching Tool™).

## STARTING THE LESSON

Letter, workbook page, and objectives are shown in the top corner. Start each lesson with the suggested multisensory activity.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Lesson Plan

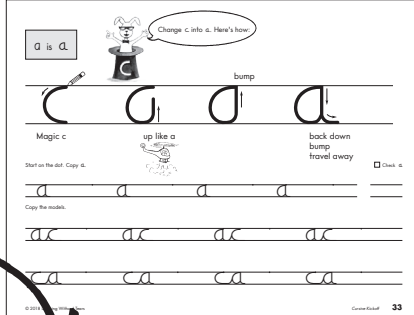
The letter lesson follows these steps:

- 1. Direct Instruction –**  
Actively demonstrate the letter for children to finger trace and then copy.
- 2. Guided Practice –**  
Children finger trace and copy the letter.
- 3. Check Letter –** Children check their letter and evaluate formation.

## Read, Color & Draw

You and your children read the sentence. Children color and draw.

p. 33
a



Change c into a. Here's how.

Start on the dot. Copy a.

Copy the models.

**OBJECTIVES**  
To develop habits for writing and placing lowercase a; to connect aC and cA.

**LESSON INTRODUCTION**  
Multisensory Voices (p. 185)


LOUD!

High

Low

Soft

Squeaky

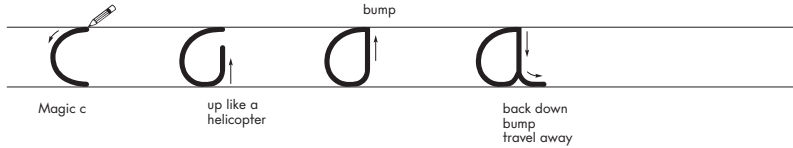


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**LESSON PLAN**

**1. Direct Instruction**  
Demonstrate a on double lines. Say the words for each step.  
Demonstrate aC and cA on double lines. Say the words for each step.



**2. Guided Practice**  
Children finger trace the step-by-step models while saying the words. Monitor as children copy letters and models on their own.

**3. Check Letter**  
Help children check letter for correct start, steps, and bump.  
Help children check their models for correct size, placement, and closeness.

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**ENRICHMENT**  
Have children practice traveling on the line with Wet-Dry-Try on Blackboard with Double Lines (p. 184).

**SUPPORT/ELL**  
For easy connections, teach children to travel away on the base line before starting the next letter.

**CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS**  
Social Studies: The letters c and a form the abbreviation AC, and can be used for air conditioning. Discuss common abbreviations.

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Cursive Kickoff Teacher's Guide: Teaching Cursive Handwriting

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## EXTENDING THE LESSON

Differentiated Instruction

## Enrichment

Ways to extend learning by adding complexity or variety.

## Support/ELL

Suggestions for adapting or simplifying the activity.

## Cross-Curricular Connections

This section helps to connect the lesson to another subject.