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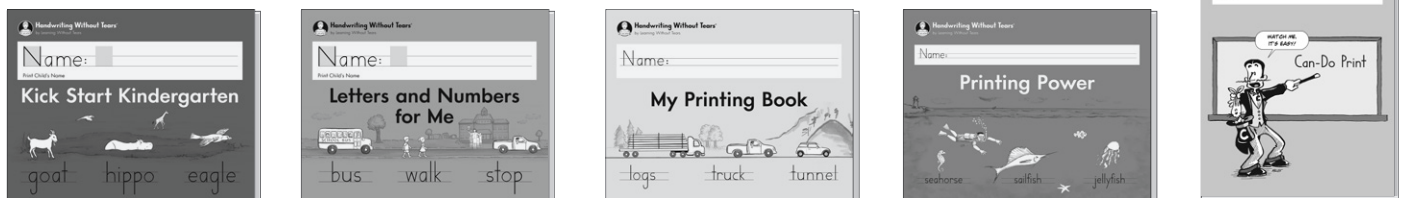
The award-winning Handwriting Without Tears curriculum features multisensory activities for printing and cursive that make handwriting easy to teach and learn. Every year more than three million students succeed with our hands-on materials and workbooks.

We teach effectively with joy, and have figured out easier, happier ways for children to master handwriting.

Handwriting Without Tears is dedicated to developing excellent materials for children and training for teachers. As a result, millions of administrators, teachers, therapists, parents, and children across the country have successfully used our program. The result truly is handwriting without tears!

MEET OUR HANDWRITING CURRICULUM:

Print Workbooks:



Cursive Workbooks:



Workbook Covered in this Teacher's Guide

This is why it's effective:

1. Simply Smart Student Materials

We design all our materials to be intuitive, engaging, and developmentally progressive. We've used our direct experience and knowledge of how students learn best to develop unique teaching materials that are easy and fun.

2. Active Teaching

We facilitate instruction that engages children so they can be active participants. You and the students will move, sing, talk, and experience the lessons. You will immediately know the effect of the instruction and can adjust, repeat, or vary the instruction for the best learning outcomes.

3. Teacher Support

If you have knowledge of handwriting and the latest advances in the field, you will be empowered. We can answer your handwriting questions and help you with your concerns. Why are children mixing up capitals and lowercase? What about reversals? We provide answers to help you understand and avoid those and other problems.

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 where your students are engaged, active participants.

Get Ready! Posture, Paper & Grip (p. 33)

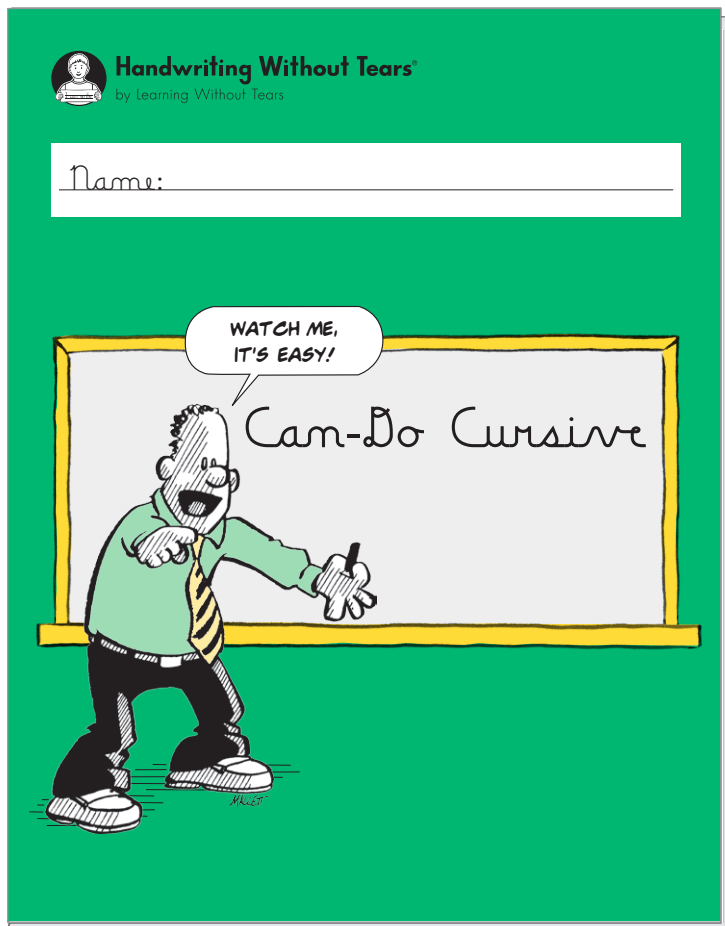
At the start of the school year, we introduce activities that teach good habits for posture, paper placement, and grip.

Multisensory Activities (p. 39)

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

Resources (p. 53)

The back of the book has important resources to support your teaching throughout the year and help you guide, adjust, and monitor your instruction.



Workbook Design

About the *Can-Do Cursive Workbook*

Can-Do Cursive is designed for fifth graders or older students of all cursive levels—from those who write cursive easily to those who know just a little. The workbook is also for you, a busy teacher who may not have been trained to teach handwriting. You can teach straight from the workbook. Just read this information, and stay a day ahead of your students as you follow the directions on each page.

What's Inside?

Can-Do Cursive is organized in four sections. The first section teaches and reviews cursive. The next three sections use cursive in fun, interesting ways to develop writing skills.



CURSIVE

Teach lowercase letters and words.



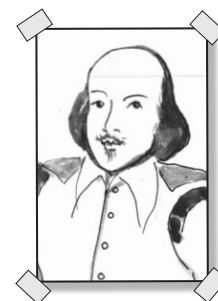
GRAMMAR

Teach capitals, grammar, and punctuation.



GREEK & LATIN

Build reading and vocabulary skills.



WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

Teach a variety of writing styles.

What's in style?

Can-Do Cursive teaches a basic vertical style of cursive. In the old days of feather pens, writers had to use a slanted style of cursive or else the pen would smudge and splatter. Pens are better now and vertical cursive is easier to get started. After students learn the basics, they will develop their own personal style. Some will slant, some will write straight up and down, some will mix—and all are fine.

Vertical cursive is easier to read and write.

Slanted cursive is a difficult style to learn.

How do I use this book?

Start at the beginning. Teach the pages in order through capital instruction. After that, you may teach pages out of order to complement your other instruction. Plan to spend 10–15 minutes teaching each day. There is no hurry.



Extra Practice: Use *Writing Journal (F)*. Like this workbook, it begins with narrow double lines and transitions to single lines to facilitate neat handwriting.

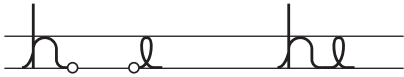
How do I teach cursive?

It's as simple as demonstrating how to make the letters and teaching the connections (just follow the steps in the workbook). Connections can be confusing! This will help. Remember that when two letters are connected, the first letter is the boss of the connection. The first letter tells the second letter where to start. The second letter starts where the first letter ends.

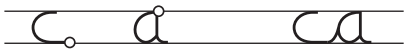
Base Line Connections

Occur after 22 letters

- Base line to base line connection – easy



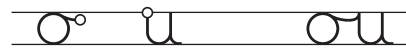
- Base line to high connection – tricky



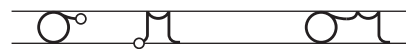
High Connections

Occur after 4 letters – *o, w, l, and v*

- High to high connection – easy



- High to low connection – tricky

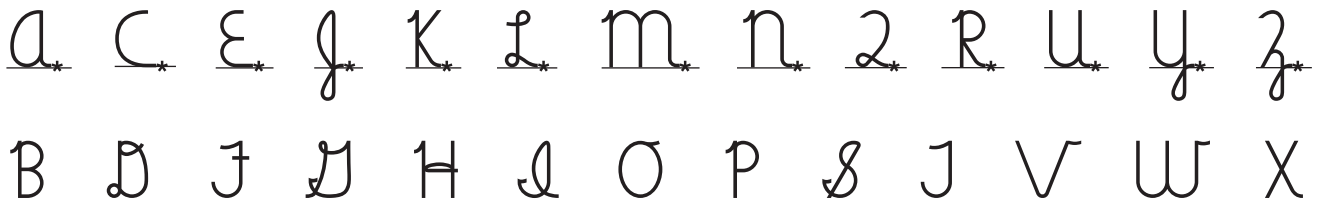


What about capitals?

This workbook uses simple styles, but you may show other styles, too. Students often like to personalize the capitals for their signatures. That's fine!

Do capitals connect?

Some do and some don't. It depends on where the capital ends. Connect the capital if it ends on the right side and on the baseline. Capitals that connect are underlined below. The asterisk shows where to connect.



Teach & Check

Show students how to check their own and each other's work. The goal is for your whole class to write well. It is fine for them to check, coach, and help each other.

Here is what they check:

Check Letter

1. Start correctly.
2. Do each step.
3. Bump the lines.

Check Word

1. Make letters the right size.
2. Place letters correctly.
3. Connect letters correctly.

Check Sentence

1. Start with a capital.
2. Put space between words.
3. Use punctuation.

Activity Design

This teacher's guide has plans and strategies for every multisensory activity. Multisensory activities can be found starting on p. 40. 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

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.

This teacher's guide provides strategies and support to assist you as you help your students practice and master cursive with the student workbook throughout the year. Below is a sample letter lesson that uses demonstration, tracing, and copying to reinforce correct letter formation.

STARTING THE LESSON

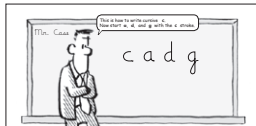
You can easily create a lesson plan using your knowledge of your students' skill levels and the activities and resources we provide.

TEACHING THE LESSON

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.

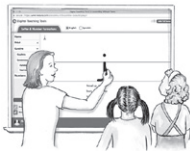
c a d g



Can Do Cursive – p. 12


OBJECTIVES
The students will review letters c a d g.


LESSON INTRODUCTION
Multisensory
Digital Letter and Number Formations (p. 52)



LESSON PLAN

1. Direct Instruction
Demonstrate c, a, d, and g.





2. Guided Practice
Children trace and each copy the letters. Monitor as students finish letters on their own.

3. Check Letter & Sentence
Help children letter for correct start, steps, and bump.

<p>ENRICHMENT Review size, placement, and connections with children (p. 5).</p>	<p>SUPPORT/ELL Use letter story: <i>If George Falls</i> to reinforce correct formation of g (pp. 44–45).</p>	<p>CROSS-CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS Math: G is for Geometry! Teach children about the shared attributes of shapes.</p>
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Can Do Cursive Teacher's Guide:
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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.

Simply Smart Student Materials

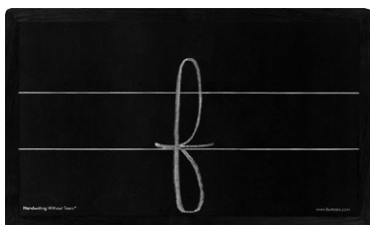
ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

This curriculum fits easily into your daily routine. As you become familiar with the program, you will gradually incorporate new activities and choose those that suit your students' needs.

Here's how:

Teach Using Multisensory Strategies

Children have many different learning styles. That's why multisensory teaching strategies and materials can make learning easy and fun. To help children form letters they are struggling with, have them trace large models with chalk and sponges to build good habits.



Blackboard with Double Lines

Use the Blackboard with Double Lines to teach cursive letters. Incorporate the Wet-Dry-Try technique to add endless opportunities for children to trace, write, and learn to form letters and numbers.

Play & Pretend

Funny voices and props captivate children. We believe in dynamic teaching to make it fun and more effective.

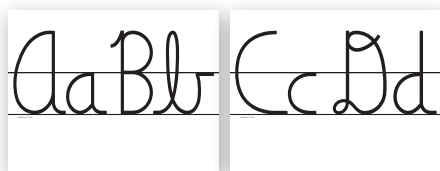


Magic C Bunny

Make the puppet your teaching assistant. Your students can use him, too. Learn how to make your own Magic C Bunny out of a paper napkin on p. 68. Your students will form letters correctly when they learn the Magic C way.

Use Visual Cues & Correct Models

Students need correct models to form letters properly. When children aren't writing in the workbook, make sure you have visual guides in the classroom to help them form letters.



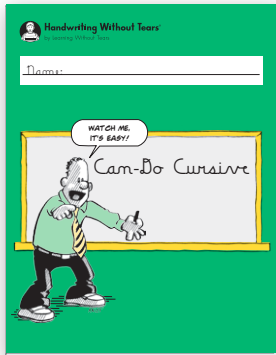
Cursive Wall Cards & Cursive Alphabet Desk Strips

These eye-catching cards and helpful desk strips promote correct letter and number formation in the classroom.



Teach Letters, Words, Sentences & Paragraphs

This workbook is carefully designed to teach cursive in a developmental sequence.

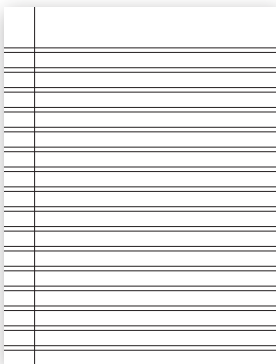


Can-Do Cursive Workbook

Facilitate the lessons and activities in the workbook to promote letter, word, sentence, and fluency practice. Your students will love practicing and mastering cursive with the fun, engaging, and cross-curricular themes. We have developed 19 weeks of teaching guidelines in this teacher's guide (p. 25) to help you plan your lessons.

Promote Correct Letter Placement with Double Line Notebook Paper

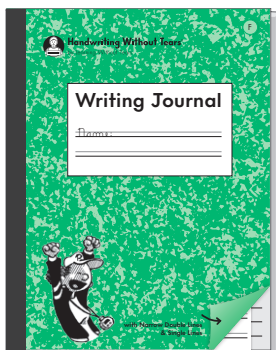
Solve the problem of line confusion and help children place letters on the lines correctly. The base line keeps the writing straight, and the mid line controls the size of the letters.



Narrow Double Line Notebook Paper

Use Narrow Double Line Notebook Paper (spaced 1/8" apart) for spelling tests and other classroom writing activities.

automobile



Writing Journal F

Available with line spacing to match narrow double lines, *Writing Journal F* has narrow double lines and single lines that cover the entire page. Use for language arts activities and independent writing.