

Handies Activity Sheet

Child's name:

Letter formation

These activities have been put together to practice and improve letter formation skills, thereby helping handwriting skills.

The activities can be done in any order. They should ideally be carried out about three times a week for about 10 to 15 minutes.

Equipment needed

- Magazine
- Paper
- Pens, pencils, coloured pencils and / or felt tip pens
- Chalkboard
- Playdough
- Paperclips, string and magnet
- Sandpaper

1. Air writing

Write letters in the air using a rolled up magazine or newspaper as a writing wand. Write each letter three times verbalizing the direction and sequence of the strokes (i.e. up, down and around) and saying the name and sound of the letter.



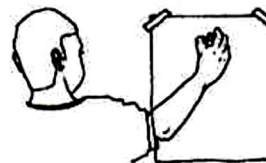
2. Body tracing

Ask the child to identify letters drawn on their back or hand and then write that letter using the correct formation.



3. Rainbow

Use a variety of colours to draw over and over a particular letter to make a rainbow letter. (An adult may need to draw the letter first so that the child traces over it). Preferably do this activity when standing with the paper / chalkboard secured vertically at shoulder height.



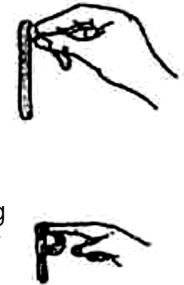
4. Sand writing

Get the child to use the index finger of their preferred hand (writing hand) to write letters in the sand, finger paint, cornflower or shaving foam.



5. Putty letters

Get the child to roll putty or playdough into long, thin sausages and use these to form different letters. Use the index finger of the child's preferred hand to press the playdough letters down going in the direction of the correct formation of the letter.



6. Muscle Memory

With eyes closed, the child should draw a letter three times on a chalkboard or piece of paper using the correct formation.

7. Letter Fishing

The adult will write each letter of the alphabet onto small squares of paper or card and attach a paper clip to each letter. Tie a magnet to a piece of string. The child will 'catch' a letter with the magnet, identify the letter and then write it onto paper using the correct formation.

Other suggestions:

- Draw using crayons, chalk, pencil and pens to get a variety of tactile experiences.
- Try writing on different coloured or textured paper.
- Try using scented or sparkly pens to make the activity seem more interesting or motivating.