

DEVELOPMENTAL TEACHING ORDER

Look at the teaching order. It's planned to help children learn cursive skills in the easiest, most efficient way. It's also developmentally planned to start with letters that are familiar from printing. Children learn their lowercase letters first. The teaching order is based on the following:

1. Familiarity of the letter: we begin with seven letters children know from printing.
2. Mastery of the **c** stroke: **c** to **c** is a very important connection in cursive. Learning this connection and letters that use it gets students off to a good start.
3. Difficulty of connections: four letters (**o w b v**) have a high ending stroke and often are difficult to connect to other letters. These letters are taught after the student has mastered easier connections.
4. Formation patterns: letters that use similar strokes are grouped together.

Lowercase

c c c



Connecting **c** to **c** is the foundation skill for cursive connections. It is tricky. Teach students to travel away from the first **c** and then slide up and over to begin the second **c**. This skill is needed to connect not just **c** but **a**, **d**, **g** and later **o** and **q**.

c a d g

The first group of letters is familiar from printing and these letters use the basic **c** to **c** connection. Children can easily identify these letters. In both print and cursive, these letters start on the top line with the Magic C stroke.

h t p

These letters are also familiar from printing. The **h** and **p** have been de-looped for simplicity. They begin with a small travel stroke on the bottom line. Letters **h t** and **p** end on the bottom line. They are easy to connect to letters that start on the bottom line.

e l f

This group of letters doesn't look like the printed letters. Letter **e** is the most frequently used letter. All three use similar stroke patterns and strategies. We keep the loops on **e**, **l**, and **f** because making a loop helps the pencil move in the right direction to connect to the next letter.

u y i j

Most children recognize these letters from printing. They are fairly easy to learn. The letters **u** and **y** begin with similar strokes, and letters **i** and **j** begin with similar strokes.

k n s

These three letters are not familiar from printing. They can be challenging, but if taught using the step-by-step directions, they will not present any difficulty. The letter **k** has been de-looped to keep it clear and simple.

o w b v

This group has a special name—the "tow truck letters." These four letters are the only lowercase cursive letters that do not end on the bottom line. The ending sticks out like a tow and they never bend down to pick up another letter!



m n

The number of bumps in these letters is important and tricky. When a tow truck letter comes before **m** or **n**, use the printed style of these letters. Children should know the difference between the printed and cursive letters.

x z q

These letters are used infrequently and can be challenging, so we wait until the end to introduce them. Although **q** uses a Magic c stroke, it is taught here to avoid confusion with **g**.