



## This is My NAME!

Children love their names! Do children in your class recognize their names? Do you see children trying to write their names? How exciting! Teaching a child to write his/her name depends on two things:

1. Age
2. Readiness

To teach developmentally, we suggest teaching "NAME" in Pre-K and transitioning to "Name" when children are ready in Kindergarten.

### Pre-K – NAME

When you think it's time to help a child write letters, start with capitals. Capitals are the easiest letters to write, the easiest to recognize. They all are the same height and they all start at the same place (the TOP). We suggest you stick with them for now.

They won't always write in capitals. It's just the friendliest thing to do because they are young. You can explain to children that there are two ways to write a name. The big letter way and the small letter way. Show them both, and then tell them the secret: Their hands are growing and they are ready to learn the big letter way. When they get big and their hands get stronger, they can learn the other way, too. Children will follow your lead.

We suggest:

1. Displaying names both ways in the room
2. Teaching NAME through careful demonstration and imitation activities (no free tracing)

### Kindergarten – Name

You may choose to stay with "NAME" for a short time in Kindergarten until you feel the child has experienced enough practice with their lowercase letters. Most Kindergarten children look forward to learning new skills. Now is a perfect time to transition them from writing "NAME" to writing "Name." By having the experience of being able to write their names correctly in all capitals, you won't have to undo any bad habits with lowercase. They will learn their "Name" correctly with ease.

### To Teach NAME in Pre-K

Copy and use this the name card (to the right) or make your own. Put your strip above the child's strip. Demonstrate each letter on your strip and wait for the child to imitate you. Do this letter by letter (see below).

### Educate Parents

On the next page, copy the information and send home with NAME strips.



# Handwriting Without Tears®

## Help Me Write My Name

"That's my name. My name starts with \_\_\_\_." Maybe your child is trying to write or even make letters you can recognize. If so, then it's time to start showing your child how to write a few letters. Here's how:

1. Be a good example.
2. Write in all capitals.
3. Start every letter at the top.
4. Teach letters step by step.
5. Write on paper strips with a smiley face in top left corner.

### How can I be a good example?

Hold the crayon correctly. Your child will be watching both how you make the letters and how you hold the crayon or pencil. Be sure to be a good model. You may need to make a special effort to hold it correctly.

### Why should I use all capitals?

Capitals are the first letters to learn. Capitals are the letters children can visually recognize and remember. Capitals are the first letters children can physically write. You may use lowercase if you and your child's teacher think your child is ready.

### Does it matter where my child starts?

Yes, it really does. English has one basic rule for both reading and writing: read and write English from the top to bottom, left to right. When you write with your child, always start at the top!

### What do I say when I teach the letters?

This is easy. Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you're making. Say "big" or "little" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape, like this: D = "I start at the top. I make a big line. Now I make a big curve."

### What kind of paper should I use?

Just fold a paper in half the long way and then in half again. Cut. That will give you four strips, about 2" by 11". You can adjust the size if your child needs to write bigger. Now put a smiley face in the top left corner of each strip. Use two strips. You write on the top one; your child writes on the bottom one. Make the capital letters as big as the paper.

