LETTER SIZES AND PLACES: THE HAND ACTIVITY

Teaching children the correct size and placement of letters is one of the most important things you can do to help make their printing neat and fast. The simple hand activity below is fun, gets the students’ attention, and is a great way to help children learn the concepts of letter sizes and places. Students will develop a sense for how letters fit relative to one another, enabling them to write letters the correct size and put them in the correct vertical place.

**Capital letters – Left hand**
- Make a flat hand for all capitals.

**Lowercase letters – Right hand**
- Make a fisted hand for small letters.
- Point the index finger up for tall letters.
- Point the thumb down for descending letters.

**Directions**
1. Demonstrate capitals by holding up your flat hand.
2. Demonstrate lowercase by holding up your hand for a small, tall, or descending letter.
3. Call out a letter, write it on the board, and show the hand position.

*Note: Don’t use this activity for children learning sign language because it may create confusion.*

**Directions for Hand Positions for Letters on the Board**
1. Write the first lowercase letter.
2. Ask students if the first letter is small, tall, or descending.
3. Students make the right hand show the answer: small, tall, or descending. Do each letter in the word.

Alternately, write the complete word and have the class do hand positions as you say each letter.