

# HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD WITH... HANDWRITING



## PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT, NOT PERFECT.

When it comes to handwriting, it is important to make sure that students are forming their letters correctly. If you see your child forming a letter incorrectly, immediately stop and model proper letter formation.

## WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE THE "PROPER" WAY?

It can be difficult to help your child with their letter formation if no one ever taught you the proper formation. Please scan the QR code below to see a video of how each letter is created.



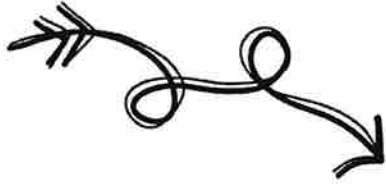
## CONSIDERATIONS

1. Use paper that has a midline (a dotted line) to help guide their letter formation. For beginning writers, paper that has pictures to represent each line may also help.
2. Make sure your child has proper pencil grip. There are a variety of affordable options you can purchase (search for pencil grips) to assist. Remember, though, we don't want them to use a pencil grip forever.

## WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

1. Ask your child to write the ABCs (lowercase) for you. In general, we want them to accurately write the alphabet in 30 seconds by the end of second grade.
2. Correct errors when you see them. A gentle, "Great job, but let me show you the fastest way to make that letter!" is appropriate.
3. When practicing handwriting, make sure that your child does not include uppercase letters in the middle of words. If you see that, it may be an indication that they aren't certain how to properly form the lowercase letter.
4. Think about teaching letters together that are formed similarly. c, a, g, o, d, and q all start the same way!

# ALL ABOUT DECODING



## WHAT is DECODING?

Decoding is the ability to sound out and read words by recognizing the relationship between letters and their sounds.



## WHY is it IMPORTANT?



When children learn how to decode, they gain confidence in recognizing new words, improving their fluency, and building comprehension skills. It helps them become independent readers.

## HOW do I HELP my child.



1. **SOUND IT OUT:** ask your child to say each sound in the word, tap a finger or move a block for each sound, and blend the sounds together. For example: /c/ /a/ /t/ becomes 'cat.'
2. **PRACTICE REGULARLY:** daily short practice sessions will build confidence and familiarity.
3. **PRAISE THEIR EFFORT:** celebrate each success to motivate and reinforce their progress.