

PARENT GUIDE: HANDWRITING & DECODING



HANDWRITING: PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT, NOT PERFECT

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.

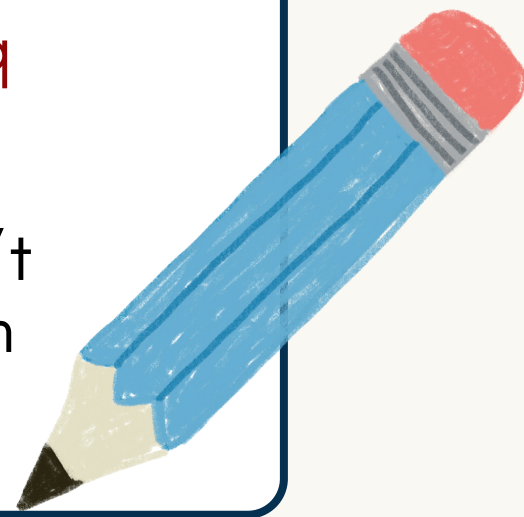
- Use paper that has a dotted midline to help guide letter formation.



Scan the QR code to see a video of how each letter is created.

HANDWRITING TIPS & ACTIVITIES

- Temporarily use options such as pencil grips and large pencils to make sure your child has proper pencil grip.
- Gently correct errors when you see them.
- Think about teaching letters together that are formed similarly, **c**, **a**, **g**, **o**, **d**, and **q** all start the same way.
- Make sure your child doesn't include uppercase letters in the middle of words.



DECODING: WHAT IT IS & WHY IT'S IMPORTANT



- **Decoding** refers to the ability to sound out and read words by recognizing the relationship between letters and their sounds.
- When children learn 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 LEARN DECODING?

- Sound it out: ask your child to say each sound in the word, tap a finger for each sound, then blend the sounds together. For example: /c/ /a/ /t/ becomes "cat".
- Practice regularly: daily short practice sessions will build confidence and familiarity.
- Praise their effort: celebrate each success to motivate and reinforce their progress.