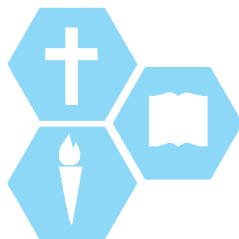


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Handwriting

In the Beginning

written by
Geoffrey T. Garvey
and Michael McHugh



The Christian Liberty Academy
Handwriting Program

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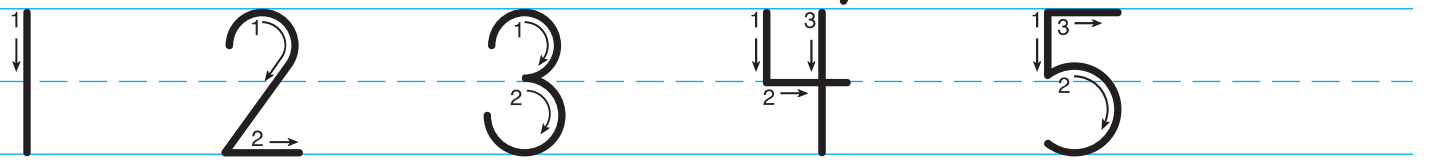
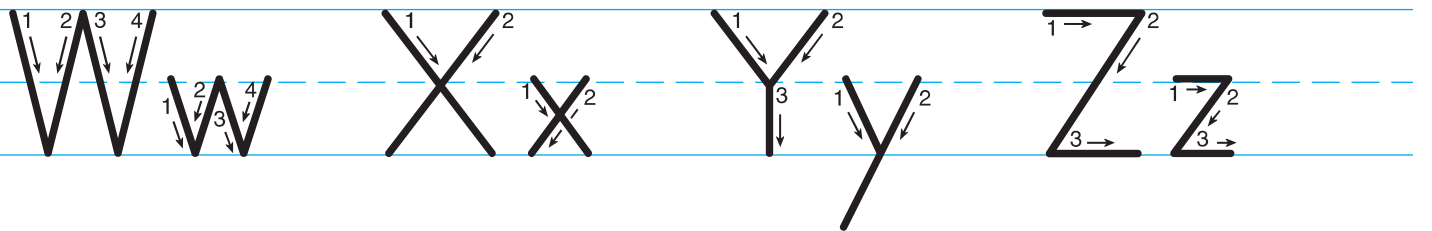
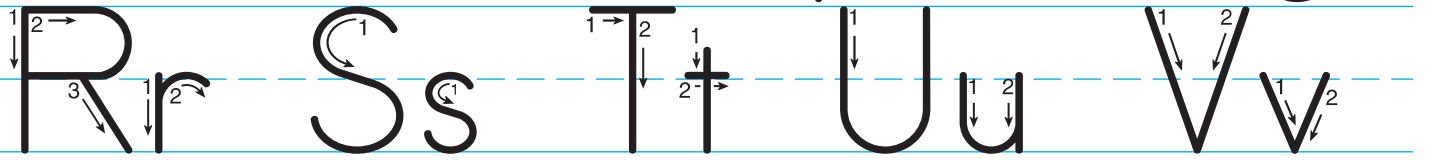
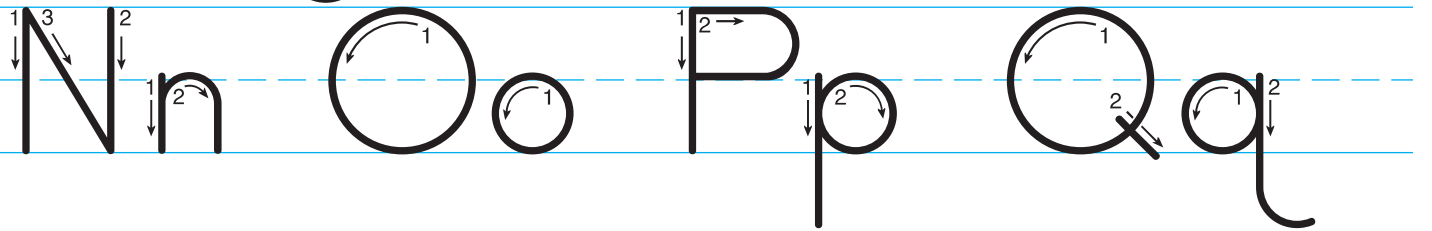
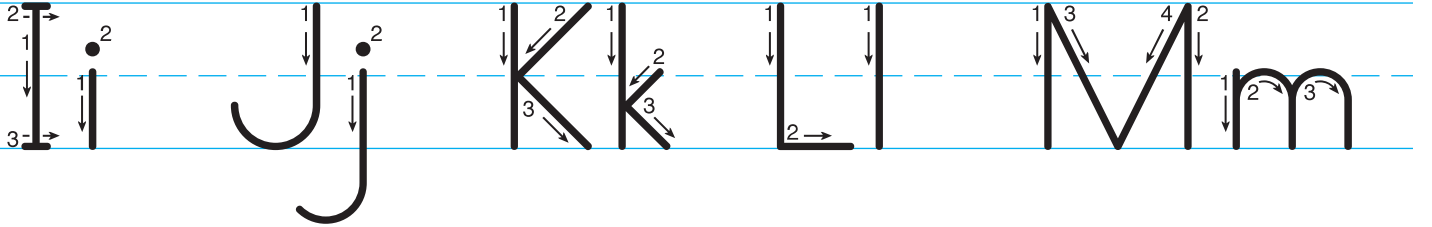
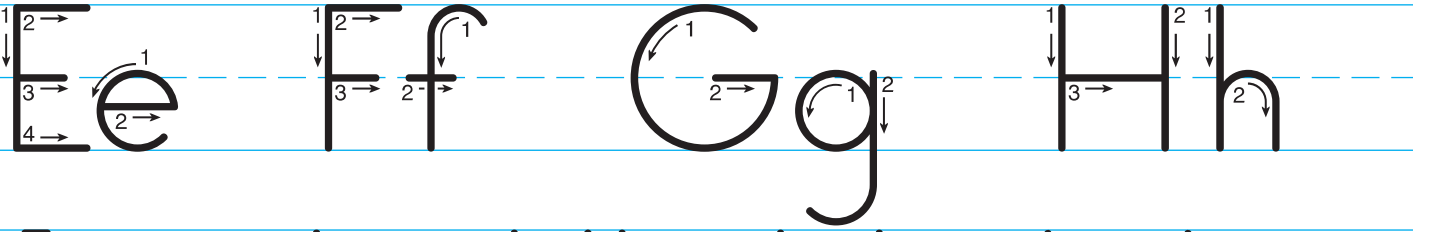
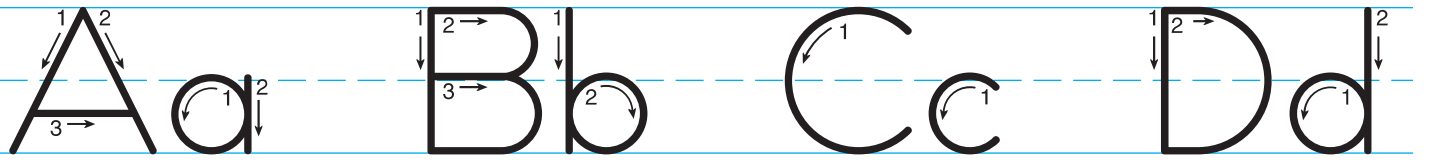
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Preface

One key to teaching success is reducing frustration in both parent and student. A wise teacher will not fail to take into account the maturity of the child so they can enjoy their handwriting readiness activities without constant boredom or extreme fatigue.

Learning can and should be fun. The staff at Christian Liberty Academy has taken care to design each lesson of *In the Beginning* to fit the attention span of the average four- or five-year-old—about 15 to 20 minutes per topic. Keep in mind that it is counterproductive to push youngsters beyond their abilities.

A five-year-old has only been on the Lord's good earth for 60 months. Three months represents a full 5 percent of his or her life. The teacher must always remember that the child's writing or drawing ability can improve rapidly within a short time. Patience, prayer, and persistence are indispensable for success when teaching primary handwriting. The material presented within *In the Beginning* will be extended and reviewed in the next grade level, so it is not necessary for students to achieve total mastery of every concept in this textbook.

Certain abilities are generally found at this beginning level of development:

1. Good control of crayons, scissors, and buttons or zippers
2. Ability to follow a series of spoken directions
3. Ability to color within the lines
4. Ability to draw figures like circles and squares
5. Ability to distinguish between left and right

In this text are activities designed to strengthen the above skills: simple tasks that the child can perform at convenient times. Many activities will involve oral directions and distinguish between somewhat like objects.

Many of our children listen to us, but they don't hear us. Having the child follow oral directions for simple tasks (washing a dish, feeding the dog, etc.) can help develop the proper awareness.

It is very important for instructors to realize that extra drill work (on the blackboard and practice paper) must be assigned for each and every concept in the textbook.

Good handwriting is an essential skill of expression and communication. Time spent on handwriting is well spent. May the God of all grace help you develop students who will desire to write legibly and attractively for the glory of God.

Michael J. McHugh

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

~Proverbs 1:7

Following Directions

Place the Pencil

Materials: Pencil

Procedure: Tell the child that he or she will be asked to put the pencil in various places. The directions that are to be followed might involve an understanding of the concepts near, far, up, and down.

Example:
Place the pencil near Billy's desk.

Moving Boxes

Materials: Three boxes of various sizes

Procedure: Give each child a direction, telling that child which box to use and where to place it.

Example:
Get the biggest box and put it on your head.

One, Two, Three

Materials: None

Procedure: Give one child three simple directions to pantomime, such as "Go to the back of the room, touch the easel, and then hop back to your seat." Tasks should be varied and made interesting and amusing enough so that there is attentive listening by the other children.

Some of these general development activities require larger groups. Omit or modify them if inconvenient.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.

~Acts 16:31

Following Directions

Picture Building

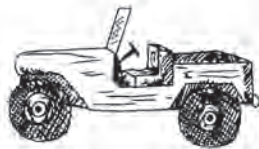
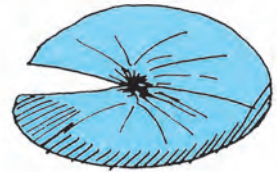
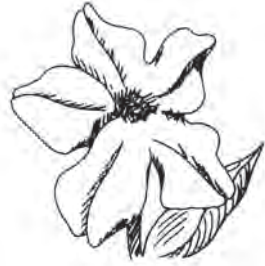
Materials: Crayons or paint

Procedure: Tell the children that they are each going to draw a picture according to certain directions. Give several specific directions about what they are to draw, such as “Put a tree on the left side of your paper.” Demonstrate when necessary. Then allow each child to finish and display his or her own picture. The other children should determine whether each child has followed the directions exactly.

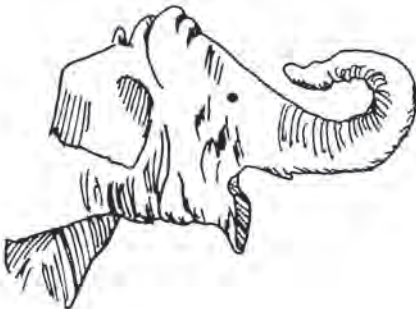
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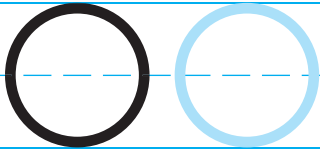
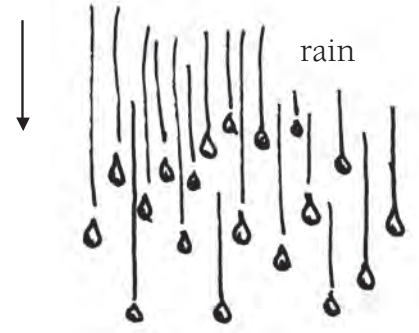
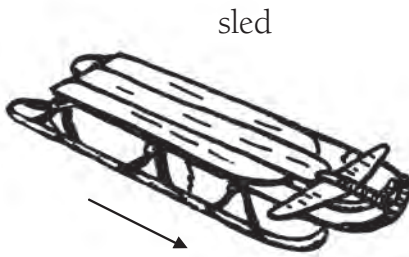
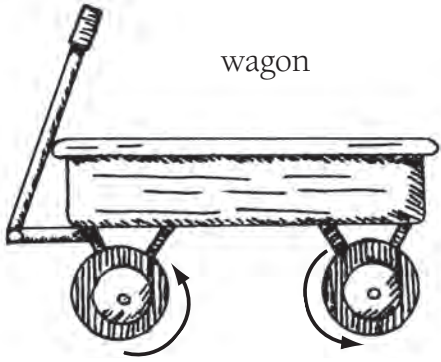
the objects that are the same.



Connect the pictures with a line. Draw from left to right.



Trace and write.



Handwriting practice lines for the letter 'o'.



Handwriting practice lines for the letter 'l'.



Handwriting practice lines for the letter 'i'.

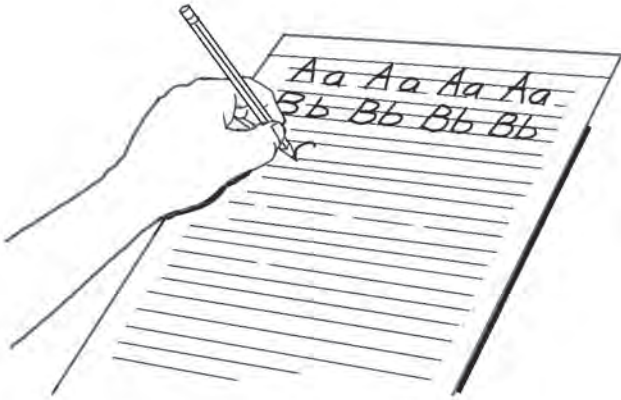
Proper Writing Posture



Some children write with their left hand. This picture shows how they should sit when they write.



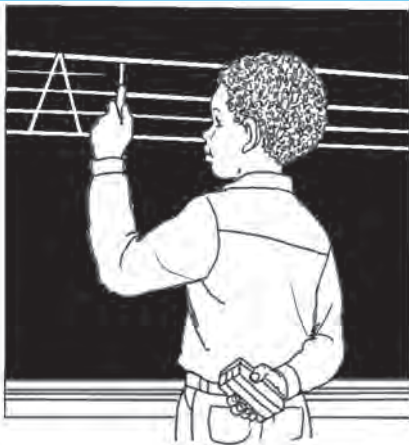
Some children write with their right hand. This picture shows how they should sit when they write.



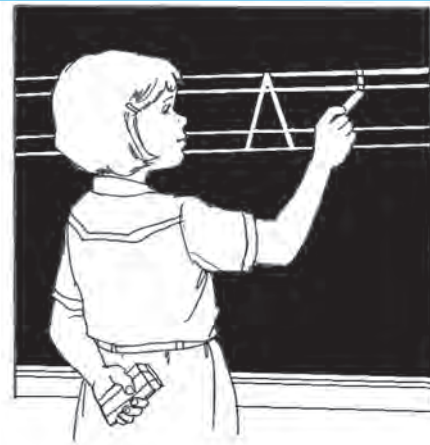
Some children write with their left hand. This picture shows how they should hold their pencil.



Some children write with their right hand. This picture shows how they should hold their pencil.



Some children write with their left hand. This picture shows how they should stand at the chalkboard.

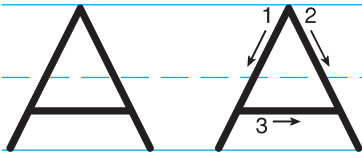


Some children write with their right hand. This picture shows how they should stand at the chalkboard.

Color the objects that begin with A.



Trace and write.



Handwriting practice lines for the uppercase letter 'A'. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are four such rows available for practice.



Handwriting practice lines for the lowercase letter 'a'. Each row consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are four such rows available for practice.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

~Ecclesiastes 12:13

Following Directions

Number, Please

Materials: None

Procedure: Have a child listen as you say a numeral. Then ask the child to repeat it. Continue the procedure with the same child, adding one numeral in a series each time. The child who can repeat the longest series is the winner.

Variation: Letter names or objects may be used in place of numerals.

Twist and Turn

Materials: Twelve geometric shapes of various colors, tape

Procedure: Tape the geometric shapes to the floor so that two rows are formed, with six shapes in each row. Have two children stand at either end of the rows, facing one another. Give each child directions similar to the following:

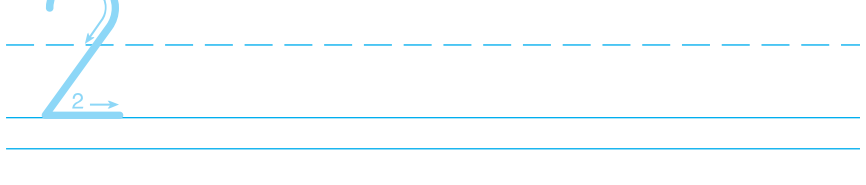
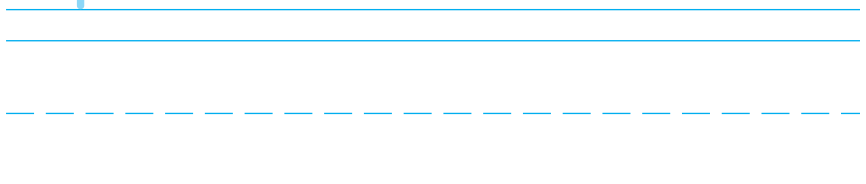
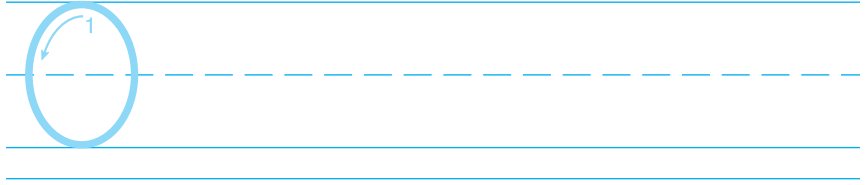
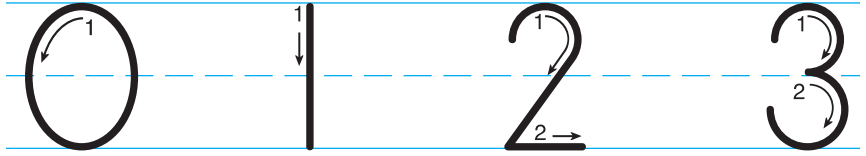
Bob, put your right hand on the blue square.

Mary, put your left foot on the yellow triangle.

The child is to move only that part of the body mentioned in the direction, remaining in that position until his or her next turn. The child who follows each direction without falling is the winner.

Some of these general development activities require larger groups. Omit or modify them if inconvenient.

Count the objects.
Trace and write the numerals.



Word Store

God I father church
love mother my Bible

Write sentences using the word store.

I love God.
