

Steps to Success

Rhythm & Writing uses catchy phrases to teach kids to form letters correctly. With repetition, you will find that they remember the phrases and will eventually join in, fill in the blanks or say the rhymes themselves!!! Begin the program with the pre-assessment (in all lower case, then in all upper case) to determine which letters your child is having difficulties with. At that point, you can decide to focus only on the difficult letters or complete the entire program. My guess is that he or she will want to do it all!

This book is divided into episodes that include letters made similarly, beginning with the letters that are easiest to form. Begin each chapter reading the summary page, demonstrate the formation while saying the rhyme aloud, then have the child practice several times while saying the rhyme over and over again. Do this in the air, finger-writing on the desk or even in shaving cream. Let them color to work on holding pencils and crayons correctly, and staying inside the lines. Do your best to make the handwriting program fun for your kids. Read the summaries and rhymes with excitement, and even change up their writing utensils from time to time. Maybe let them practice writing in crayon, colored pencils or even markers sometimes!

The Learn to Practice pages come next. Green, yellow, and red are used because they resemble a stop-light and are used as visual cues to show them where to start, slow down, and stop each letter; kids with more experience can start at the yellow line. Every stroke in every letter will be practiced. The kids begin with tracing the gray lines, then move to connecting the dots, to starting with just one dot that shows them where to begin the next stroke. Eventually and with repetition they will be able to write each letter independently without lines to trace or dots to remind them where to start. Until then they should use all the cues provided, e.g., trace every gray or black line and start at the dots provided until the third practice line, where they will practice writing the letters without the cues. Repeat each episode as needed, until the letters included within that section are mastered. If necessary, begin each handwriting session reviewing the letters worked on previous days ... mock quizzes on dry erase boards are fun!! Spend time practicing letters they have difficulty with while chanting the rhymes of association.

Once the program is complete, have the kids complete the post-assessment, then compare the two, and even show it to them so they can see the handwriting progress they've made. You and they will be so proud!!!