

Letter and Number Practice

As early educators we understand that children develop at different rates. Some children are interested in numbers and letters before entering kindergarten. There is no indication that early readers and writers have long term advantages, and in fact recent scientific studies show that children who start later tend to catch up to their early-reading peers within a few years.

We in no way expect children to come to kindergarten knowing the alphabet, but we do realize that many children have a natural interest in learning to communicate through print and we do highly encourage playful learning.

For those whose children are interested, we have provided some resources to support correct pencil grip, and letter and number formation.

Generally speaking, all letters (and numbers) start at the top and many are completed with a continuous stroke (the pencil does not come off the paper). The correct formation and stroke order is illustrated on the following pages.

Good writing starts with good mechanics. Students should be encouraged to hold their pencil with the tripod grasp. The thumb and index finger hold the pencil. The shaft of the pencil rests on the middle finger. The wrist is slightly cocked up and the pencil rests on a slant in the space between the thumb and index finger. By holding the pencil correctly, the child can control its pressure and movement on the paper.

