



MONTESSORI HOUSE
For Children and Elementary School



Handwriting

Our educational philosophy prioritizes cursive handwriting instruction, beginning in our early childhood classrooms and extending through grade 6. Cursive is reflected in our materials where possible, and adults provide consistent modeling.

Cursive Tips

- Write at a table, which allows for proper body and hand mechanics. (Both elbows at the table; feet should touch the floor, or a cushion can be used to avoid dangling feet.)
- Make sure your child is using a tripod grasp to hold the pencil.
- Tilt paper at a 45° angle. (Align bottom corner of the paper with belly button.)
- Use nondominant hand to hold paper in position and move it up (rather than moving the writing hand down—this will cause fatigue).
- Letter formation is very important. You can use verbal descriptions to guide your child through the appropriate strokes.
- Letters taught by similar stroke, not in alphabetical order.

i, t, p, s, r, j, u, and w

n, m, y, v, x, and z

a, d, g, o, c, and q

l, f, h, k, b, and e

See our [CURSIVE HANDWRITING VIDEOS](#) for our families who wish to reinforce these skills at home.

Print Tips

- Children first focus on learning lowercase letters in manuscript/print. Especially if your child is experiencing letter reversals, they may be tempted to use uppercase. Stick with lowercase because it is what they will need most frequently!
- Letter formation for manuscript is equally important.
- Letters taught/grouped by similar stroke, not in alphabetical order (and different from cursive order).

c, a, and o

d, g, and s

r, n, m, h, b, and p

v, w, x, y, z, and k

While we prioritize cursive at school, we know many of our students encounter manuscript at home. Please see Michelle Green's handwriting instructional videos for examples of proper manuscript handwriting instruction [HERE](#).

Apps

There are a handful of apps for handwriting. We like [WRITING WIZARD](#). Keep in mind that if your child makes use of a handwriting app, they should be using a stylus or Apple pencil as opposed to tracing with their fingers.