

Learning Without Tears

Author: Jan Olsen, OTR

8001 MacArthur Blvd, Cabin John, MD 20818
301-263-2700 www.lwtears.com
or
School Specialty
Unit 200, 5510-268 Street, Langley, BC V4W 3X4
1-866-519-2816 www.schoolspecialty.ca

Handwriting Readiness	
Manipulatives	Wood pieces, cards, mats, putty, stamp and see screen
Teaches Left/Right Progression	Uses a smiley face in upper left corner throughout all materials to encourage top to bottom, right to left letter formation
Teaches Proper Grip	Physical demonstration and music, small writing tools
Language Component	Instruction in position, body awareness, size, and shapes. Terms: big line, little line, big curve, little curve
Teaches Sitting Position	Yes, e.g. stomping game, stack your blocks.
Print	
Teaching Order	<div> <div>F E D P B R N M</div> <div>H K L</div> <div>U V W X Y Z</div> <div>S A I T J</div> </div> <div> <div>c o s v w</div> <div>t</div> <div>a d g</div> <div>u l e l k y j</div> <div>p r n m h b</div> <div>f q x z</div> </div>
Letter Style**	Manuscript. Vertical Style
Letter Formation**	Top to bottom, right to left letter formation
Verbal Directions*	Example for letter 'a': "Magic c, up like a helicopter, bump, back down, bump."
Preventing/Correcting Problems	
Reversals	Multisensory strategies to prevent/correct.
Size	Use of gray block and double line paper and chalk slates.
Numbers	
Teaching Method	Stories for verbal directions, use of gray block paper and chalk slates.
Cursive	
Slanted or Vertical Style	Vertical
Loops or No Loops	Limited loops
Connections	Teaches 4 connections in a specific order
Age Introduced	3 rd grade
Letter Order	<div> <div><i>c a d g</i></div> <div><i>e l f</i></div> <div><i>k r s</i></div> <div><i>m n</i></div> </div> <div> <div><i>h t p</i></div> <div><i>I j u y</i></div> <div><i>o w b v</i></div> <div><i>q x z</i></div> </div> <div> <div><i>A C O U V W X Y Z</i></div> <div><i>P B R N M</i></div> <div><i>H K T F</i></div> <div><i>T J D L G S E Q</i></div> </div>
Teaches letters with lead-ins	Minimal
Verbal Directions	Example of letter 'a': "magic c, bump the line, up like a helicopter, bump! Back down, bump, travel away."

Support Services	
In-service Training	Workshops for company available
Website Support	www.lwtears.com
Parent Support	Yes, online.
Curriculum adaptable for special needs	Yes
Workbook Design	
Organization of Pages*	Minimal black and white graphics. Landscape orientation.
Page Incorporates Other Activities*	Yes
Use of Capitals/Lowercase	Capitals taught before lowercase in print. Lowercase taught before capitals in cursive.
Letter Models*	Large Models
Left-handed Friendly	Yes
Spacing*	Emphasized on practice pages.
Type of Paper Used*	Double-line
Illustrations	
Placement	Left to right orientation.
Type	Hand drawn
Color/Black and White	Black and White
Price (2009)	
Individual Teacher's Guide	\$7.25 US via www.lwtears.com \$12.99 CAD via School Specialty www.schoolspecialty.ca
Group Teacher's Guide Discount	30+: \$6.45 US via www.lwtears.com ; 10+ 10.99 CAD via School Specialty www.schoolspecialty.ca
Individual Workbooks	\$7.25 US via www.lwtears.com \$12.99 CAD via www.schoolspecialty.ca
Group Workbook Discount	30+: \$6.45 US via www.lwtears.com (free teacher's guide with order of 25 workbooks) 10+ 10.99 CAD via www.schoolspecialty.ca
Parent Cost	As above

* Sample Letter Instructions

** Sample Letter Chart