

Handwriting Instruction Checklist

Use this checklist to affirm what you're already doing well and to uncover new ideas to tune up handwriting instruction.

- Students spend 75-100 minutes/week on handwriting instruction (grades 1-4).
- Instruction is direct and explicit, with opportunities for guided practice.
- Letters with common strokes are taught together.
- Consistent, clear language is used to describe how to form the letters.
- Visual cues, like numbered arrows, are used to show how to form letters.
- Students use their memory to practice copying and writing letters.
- Students hold pencils correctly, position their papers correctly, and sit upright.
- Special attention is paid to the difficult letters (q, j, z, u, n, and k).
- Students write connected text frequently.
- Additional handwriting instruction is provided as necessary.
- Students' handwriting is monitored.
- Older students are allowed to develop their own style.

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Graham, S. (2010). Want to Improve Children's Writing? Don't Neglect Their Handwriting. *Education Digest: Essential Readings Condensed For Quick Review, 76*(1), 49-55.