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# Tips & Strategies To Help Kids With Letter Formations

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An OT Mom Free Printable™  
by Tracey le Roux

# Letter Formation Tips & Teaching Strategies

## 1) Shapes and Patterns before Letters and Numbers

If your child has not yet mastered drawing shapes and patterns, then work on these first before attempting numbers and letters.

Tracing and drawing shapes and patterns will help your child **master the diagonals and curves** necessary for letter formations.



## 2) Steps to Mastery: Trace then Copy then Write with Cues

The order of mastery is to first **trace** the letters, then to **copy** them, then to write them with a **starting point cue**, then to write them completely independently without cues.

If your child can not yet copy a letter with the correct formation, then write the letter yourself and have your child trace it. You may even find it helpful to **guide your child's hand as they trace** the letter as in the picture alongside).



## 3) Use Correct Formations The First Time Your Child Writes Their Name!

Start teaching correct formations with the letters of your child's name. So often, pre-schoolers learn to write their name by copying it any old how – and poor letter formation habits become deeply entrenched.

Help your pre-schooler **master the letters of their own name correctly**, and you will have laid a good foundation for learning the other letters.

## 4) Teach Letters in Families

Similarly formed letters can be taught together for maximum impact – for example c, d, o. When letters are taught in families of similar formations, it is much easier for children to remember and master the correct formations.

Make use of a **good handwriting program** such as Handwriting Without Tears or Handwriting Heroes.

You can view Handwriting Heroes here (this is my affiliate link): [appytherapy.com/handwriting-heroes/?wpam\\_id=6](https://www.appytherapy.com/handwriting-heroes/?wpam_id=6)

## 5) Ensure Your Child Starts In The Right Place and Flows Correctly!

Some kids are very good at getting their letter to LOOK correct, but their strokes were perhaps made from bottom to top, or from right to left, which can lead to handwriting issues later.

So, **pay careful attention to HOW** your child forms the letter, not just what it looks like at the end! If you catch formation errors early, they are much easier to correct!



## 6) Use a Multisensory Approach

Try the fun ideas on my **letter formation activities page** to help your child master letter formations in different ways.

[www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/letter-formation-activities.html](http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/letter-formation-activities.html)

Look for stories, rhymes and songs about letter formation, which will help your child **remember where to start and stop each letter**. Handwriting Heroes has some lovely resources for this.



## 7) Incorporate Letter Formations into Gross Motor Activities

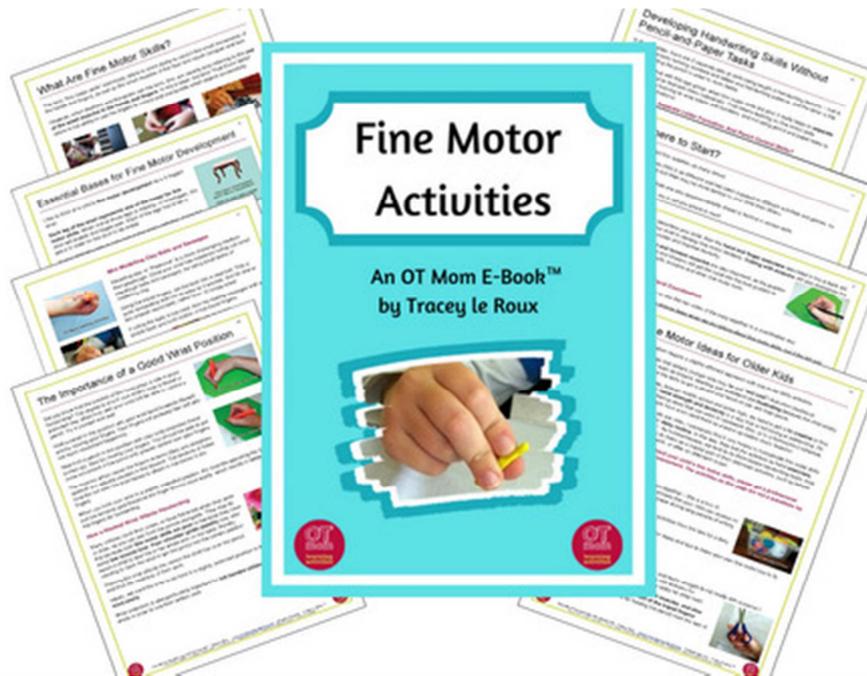
Try making letter formations part of a gross motor activity. For example, have your child crawl, hop or jump to each letter and trace it, whether on a floor, a table or a wall.

This makes it fun and also challenges your child to recall the correct formation even when not sitting at a desk (applying learning in different situations).

If your child is struggling to form recognizable numbers and letters, I really recommend you take a break from working on these, and work on some underlying foundation skills. There are **lots of free activities** on my site to help promote your child's normal development before they learn letter formations – follow the links below to see them. **However, do consult an occupational therapist if you are at all concerned about your child's progress!**

- [www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/visual-perception-activities.html](http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/visual-perception-activities.html)
- [www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/visual-motor-integration-activities.html](http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/visual-motor-integration-activities.html)
- [www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/visual-motor-worksheets.html](http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/visual-motor-worksheets.html)
- [www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/letter-formation-activities.html](http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/letter-formation-activities.html)

# Want More OT Mom™ Resources?



Do you want **practical activities** to develop your child's **fine motor skills**?

Are you **tired of lists** of suggestions that don't tell you HOW to do the activities?

My Fine Motor Activities download will give you lots of **helpful information** and **more than 24 pages of photographed activities** to support your child's fine motor skills development.

**View my Fine Motor Activities E-Book now!**

<https://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/fine-motor-skills-development.html>

You can use this special discount code to get 15% off my great value Mega Motor Bundle!

This promo code is only available to readers of this free printable 😊

Enter the promo code **letterdiscount15** at checkout.

Then click “apply” to get your discount.

<https://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/discount-deals.html#MegaMotorBundle>

(Please note: this discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other special offer.)

