

Hi-Write Numbers Guide

Part of the Hi-Write Product Series, written by Lori Dillon, OTR/L



Introduction

Children with handwriting difficulties often produce written work with poor orientation on and within the writing lines and decreased size differentiation between uppercase and lowercase letters. This can detract from the overall quality of their written work output. Often difficulties with handwriting legibility are due, in part, to visual-motor delays or learning difficulties. These students often respond well to assistance in the form of visual cues to guide their written work placement. This adapted paper with a highlighted lower-line space is extremely helpful when desiring visual cues to guide orientation of written work. The highlighted lower-line space offers a clear visual cue for lowercase letter and number placement and helps with size differentiation between uppercase and lowercase letters. Using the same adapted paper design when learning and practicing numbers will only reinforce the concept of correct and consistent orientation and formation.

Product Use

Hi-Write Numbers adapted line paper is ideal for students who require the visual cue of the highlighted lower-line space for consistency during written work activities. The directional arrows offer an added visual cue for mastery of correct formation, and regular use stimulates mastery through repetition. A model of how to construct each letter is provided along the left-hand margin and again in the middle of each row. This helps left-handed writers see the model and offers reinforcement for beginning writers who are practicing letter formation.

Objectives

The objective of Hi-Write Numbers paper is to teach and offer practice for correct number formation and orientation. Use of the Hi-Write paper with highlighted lower-line space promotes consistency in all written work tasks.

Games & Activities

1. Make up rhymes to describe how to form the letters, and chant the rhymes during practice. For example:
 - Around the tree, around the tree, that's the way to make a 3.
 - Make an "S" and don't be late, that's the way to make an 8.
2. Write the directed number the same number of times as that number. For example:
 - Write the number 1 once.
 - Write the number 2 twice.
 - Write the number 7 seven times.
3. Practice writing the numbers on the large classroom dry-erase board with eyes open and then eyes closed. Go back to seat and practice writing the numbers on the Hi-Write paper.
4. Count out M&Ms or manipulatives to match the number in each row.
5. When a row is completed, clap hands once for each time the number was written. That is, 11 numbers equals 11 claps.

Modifications

This paper may be used on a slantboard for improved visual orientation for the child and to assist with proper wrist positioning for a more functional pencil grasp. As well, this paper is ideally coupled with a multisensory approach to teaching handwriting. A multisensory approach might include the following:

- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers in shaving cream, chocolate pudding, finger paint, or sand.
- Writing shapes, letters, and numbers on the sidewalk using chalk and then spraying with water in a spray bottle to erase.
- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers on paper placed over sandpaper.
- Crumpling up tissue paper into small balls and gluing onto an outline of a shape, letter, or number.
- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers with scented crayons or markers (smell is most closely linked to memory).
- Forming shapes, letters, and numbers out of theraputty, play-doh, or clay.
- Tracing shapes, letters, and numbers with a flashlight on a large sheet of vertically mounted paper.
- Walk, jump, hop, or crawl on a masking tape line that demonstrates the formation of shapes, letters, and numbers.
- Drive a toy car on a large model of a shape, letter, or number on the floor.

This multisensory approach helps children learn and master the correct formation of shapes, letters, and numbers in a fun manner. Hi-Write paper compliments to this multisensory approach to handwriting.



©2013 School Specialty • PO Box 1579, Appleton, WI 54912-1579 • USA • All rights reserved.

Customer Service 1-888-388-3224 • www.schoolspecialty.com

Or reach us via e-mail at: orders@schoolspecialty.com

1-YEAR GUARANTEE OF SATISFACTION

See more fun activity guides for other great  products at www.abilitations.com.