



ABOUT THIS COURSE

The images, artwork, and words used in this course are all designed to connect children to the good and the beautiful: family, faith, high moral character, and the wonders and beauty of nature and human life.

Handwriting Level 1 is designed for children ages 5–7 who are in Level K or Level 1 language arts. This level focuses on correct print formation of letters and numbers and, near the end of the course, introduces short words and sentences. This course also helps children practice spelling number words. The text size reduces halfway through the course as the child gains the motor skills for smaller print.

It is critical that children gain a strong foundation in correct letter formation. Do not move too fast through these foundational skills. Many new writers attempt to begin letters at the bottom rather than at the top. It is important to follow the arrows shown and begin at the top, as this will benefit the child when he or she is learning cursive, and it will help the child develop nice penmanship without straining the hand or wrist.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

At the beginning of the course, and at different times throughout the course, the child will complete “overview” sheets. These sheets give the child general exposure to all letters and numbers. The rest of the course introduces 2–3 new letters at a time, going in order of the most frequently used letters. This approach helps the child focus on mastering letters before moving on and, at the same time, gives the child experience with all letters, which is helpful as he or she may need to write words and letters for other

subjects. This workbook includes 100 sheets, or about 3–4 sheets per week for a normal school year.

COLORING AND DRAWING

Each sheet in this course provides an opportunity for the child to draw, color, or complete an activity such as a maze or dot-to-dot. These are not merely for fun; they also improve both drawing and fine motor skills. Many children also enjoy handwriting sheets much more with the opportunity to do a little art or other activity after the handwriting portion of the sheet is completed.

DOING HANDWRITING AS A FAMILY

Handwriting time can be done together as a family. As some children will not finish one page in the same amount of time as others, you may want to set a certain length of time for handwriting each day, such as 10–15 minutes. Wherever children are on the page, have them stop at the end of the specified time. At the next handwriting session, they can pick up right where they left off. Some children may complete more than one page during a session, and some children may complete less than a page.

TIPS FOR LEFT-HANDED WRITERS

Left-handed writers often find it more comfortable to tilt the book slightly to the right and position it closer to the left side. If the child tends to write from right to left, placing a dot at the left side to remind him or her where to start may be helpful. Left-handed writers often tend to “hook” their wrists above what they are writing in order to see what they have already written. This can cause strain on the wrist and make writing difficult. Remind the child to keep the wrist straight.

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