

180 Days of Cursive

Beginning



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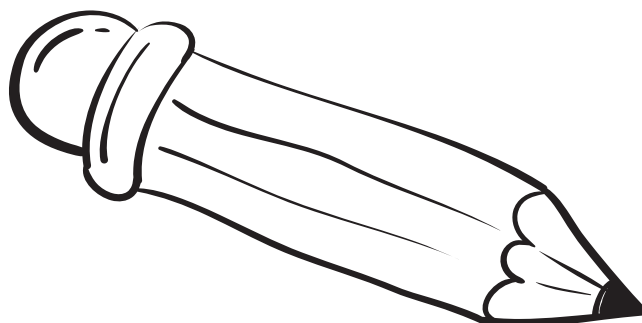
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Foundations for Cursive

Welcome to *180 Days of Cursive: Beginning!* Students will learn the foundations for writing in cursive, including strokes and connections. They will learn not only how to form individual letters, but also how to make connections between letters to write words and sentences. These practice pages provide engaging ways for young learners to develop good handwriting habits.

Hand-eye Coordination

Hand-eye coordination is essential for handwriting. Students track lines with their eyes to guide, direct, and control hand movement. Coordination allows students to write on the line, properly space letters, write proper letter size, and more. This developmental approach is also seen in research-based programs, such as Handwriting Without Tears. Hand-eye coordination is reinforced throughout this book through engaging, age-appropriate activities and practice pages.

Drawing

Drawing helps students develop fine-motor skills that extend to handwriting, such as holding a writing instrument correctly and applying the correct amount of force and speed to mark paper. Just as with print, students benefit from drawing as a way to build motor control in a fun and engaging manner. Drawing keeps writers engaged through fun activities and practice pages.

Tracing

Tracing reinforces basic stroke formation along with hand-eye coordination. As a fine-tuning skill, tracing helps students develop fine-motor skills as they practice cursive. Students also become more aware of spacing, which is essential for writing well in cursive.

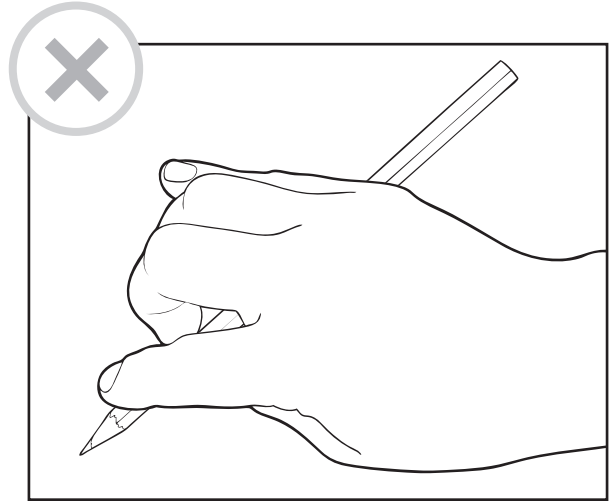
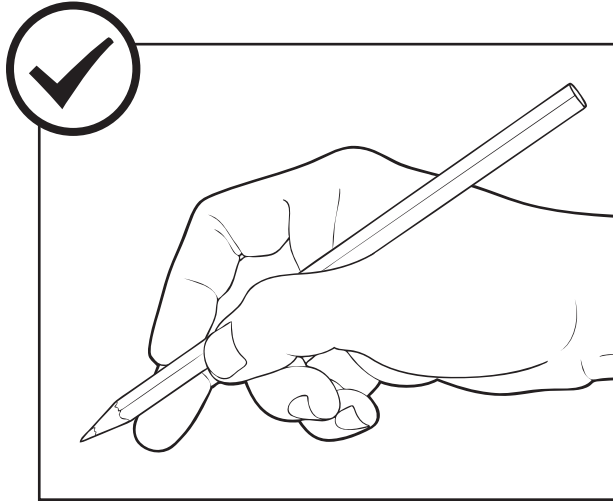
The image displays three overlapping pages from the handwriting workbook:

- Page 1 (Left):** Labeled "WEEK 1 DAY 3". It features a cursive letter 'C' and a cat illustration. Directions include tracing the letter and practicing writing. Below, it shows names "armen" and "laryto" with the print names "Carmen" and "Clayton" underneath. Another set shows "olorado" and "lara" with "Colorado" and "Clara" underneath. At the bottom are illustrations of a girl and a boy.
- Page 2 (Middle):** Labeled "WEEK 1 DAY 3". It features a cursive letter 'T' and a turtle illustration. Directions include tracing the lines and copying each row. At the bottom are the text "© Shell Education" and "130195—180 Days of Cursive: Beginning!".
- Page 3 (Right):** Labeled "WEEK 24 DAY 5". It features a "Review" section with cursive letters on lined paper. Directions include tracing each letter and writing the letters to fill the lines. At the bottom are the page number "132", the text "130195—180 Days of Cursive: Beginning", and "© Shell Education".

Getting Ready to Write

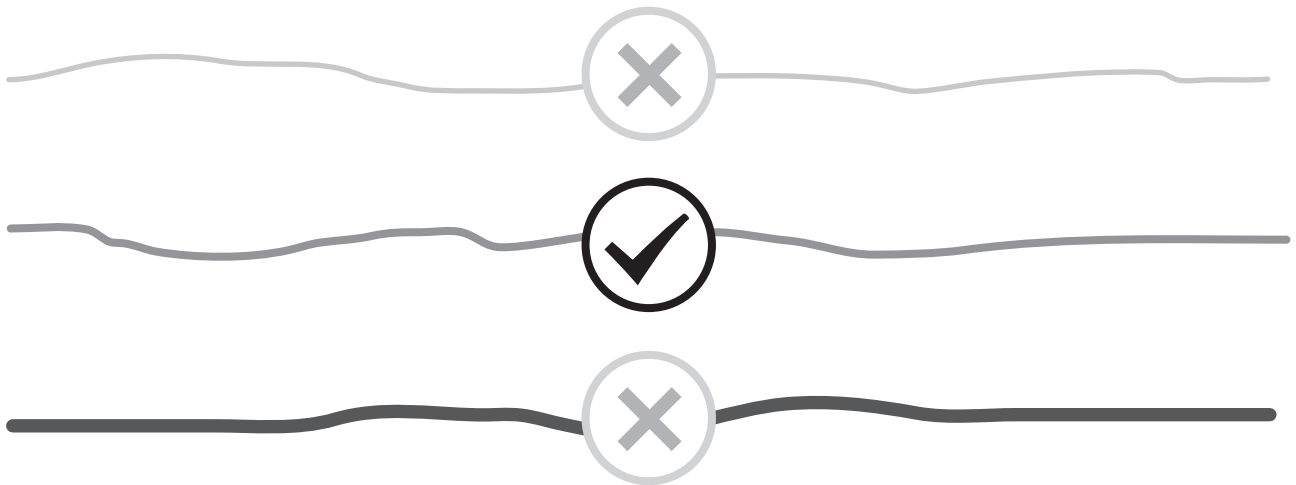
Pencil Grip

Students will naturally find their dominant hand as they learn to properly grip writing instruments. Help students decide which hand is more comfortable to write with, and guide them to alternate hands if they show no clear preference. Teach students a pencil grip with their pointer finger on the top, thumb on the side, and three fingers below the pencil to support the grip. Encourage students to use this pencil grip as they work through the pages of the book.



Pencil Weight (Writing Too Hard or Too Soft)

Students should press down on the pencil with medium weight. Demonstrate the proper pressure to use when writing—not too hard and not too soft. Bring students' attention to the color of the line when the correct weight is used.



Letter Spacing

Teach students proper letter spacing within a word and between words in a sentence. While cursive letters within a word connect, each letter should be defined and each connecting stroke should form a cohesive transition. As students grasp spacing within words, demonstrate the required spacing between words. Remind students that there should be no connecting strokes between words, and that there should be a space just like when printing. Reinforce letter spacing as students practice writing sentences on the review pages.



Letter Angle

Cursive should be written at a slight angle. Demonstrate writing at a slope for students to observe and encourage them to match the angle of the letters. Show students how to hold the page at an angle with their nondominant hand to help create the proper letter shapes. Encourage students to try different ways of holding the page to find the most comfortable position for writing—left-handed and right-handed students may benefit from holding the book at different angles as they write.




Letter Presentation Order

To give students a strong foundation in handwriting, this book builds off the smallest handwriting units—strokes. By presenting letters by strokes used for cursive letters instead of alphabetical order, students can more easily make connections on how to write them. The letter presentation order also takes into account whether the letter is formed with a stroke from the top or bottom. Presenting letters by stroke also gives students ample practice time to create and refine motor control when creating letter strokes. The use of repetition in presenting strokes across multiple weeks provides the practice young learners need to increase proficiency.

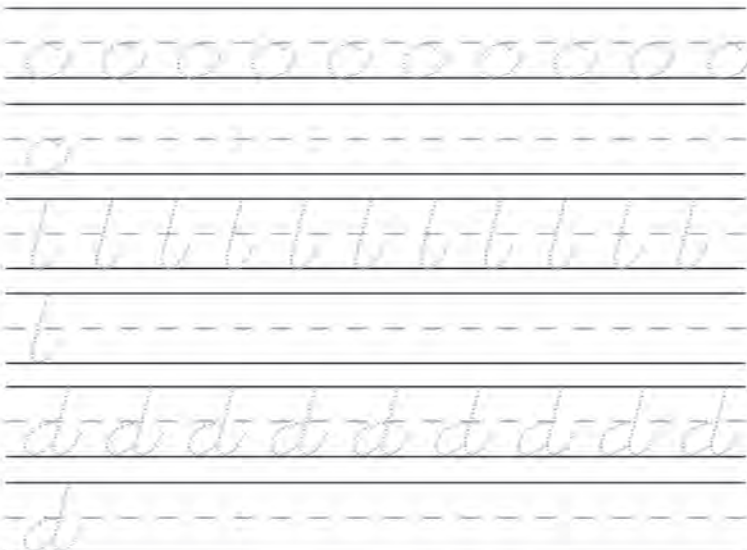
WEEK 3
DAY
1


Name: _____ Date: _____



Helpful hint:
 The cursive *d* starts like the *a*. Go higher, then down. That's the way!

Directions: Trace each line. Then, copy the line.





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662435—180 Days of Cursive: Beginning


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Sight Words

This program takes a holistic approach to handwriting, teaching not only individual letters but also how they fit into words and sentences. High-frequency words pulled from Dr. Edward Fry's Instant Words list and Dr. Edward Dolch's Most Common Words list allow students to practice words they will see and write frequently. The use of these sight words to practice handwriting increases letter awareness as students are exposed to these letters and words in other age-appropriate learning materials.

WEEK 3
DAY
2

Name: _____ Date: _____





Directions: Trace each letter. Then, practice writing and connecting the letters.

d d d d d d d d d d


d

dd

ddd

Directions: Trace each letter to finish the words.

<p><i>does</i></p> <p>does</p>	<p><i>found</i></p> <p>found</p>
<p><i>draw</i></p> <p>draw</p>	<p><i>hold</i></p> <p>hold</p>

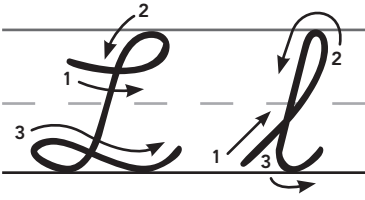


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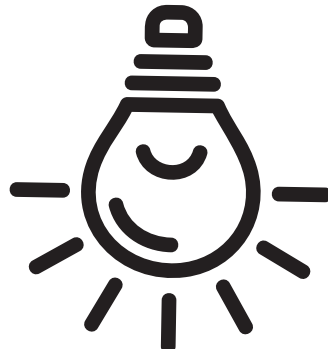
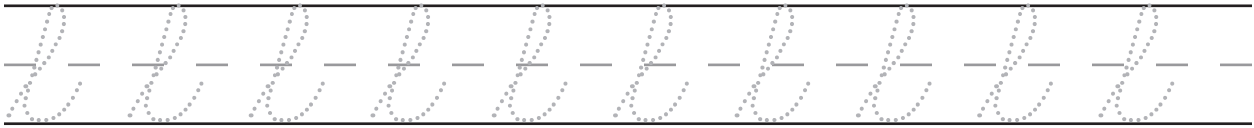
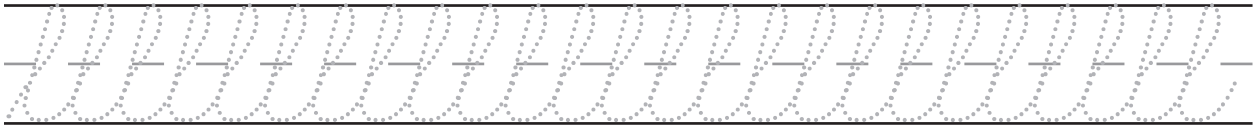
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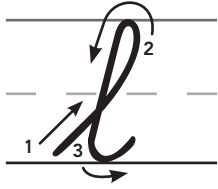
Name: _____ Date: _____



Directions: Trace the loops. Then, copy each row twice.

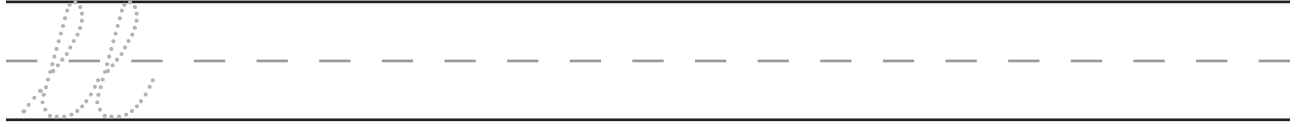
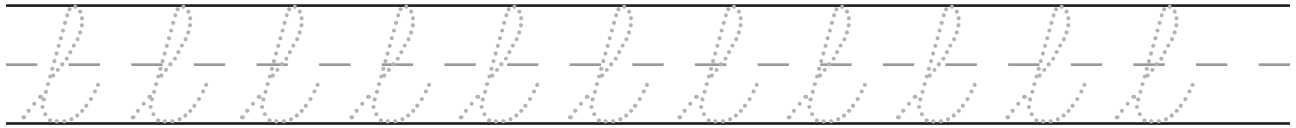


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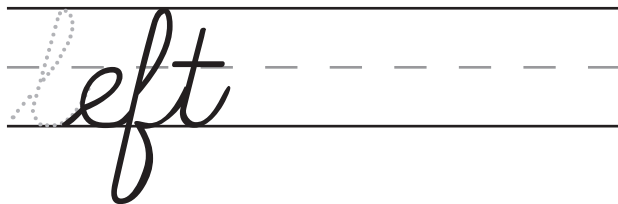


Helpful hint:
Taller loops are super
swell. That's how we
write the cursive *l*.

Directions: Trace each letter. Then, practice writing and connecting the letters.



Directions: Trace each letter to finish the words.



left



small

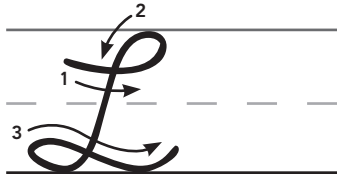


light

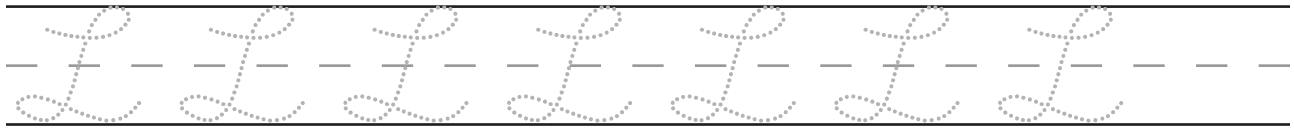


only

Name: _____ Date: _____



Directions: Trace each letter. Then, practice writing the letter.



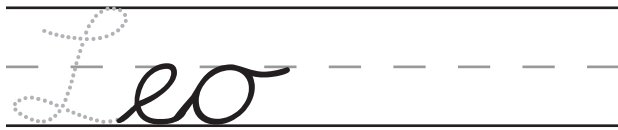
Directions: Trace each letter to finish the names.



Lana



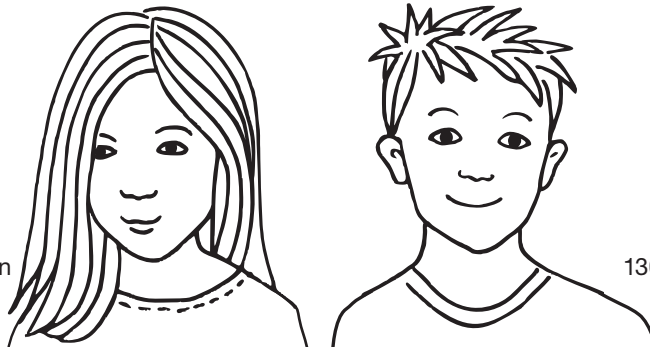
Leti



Leo



Leroy



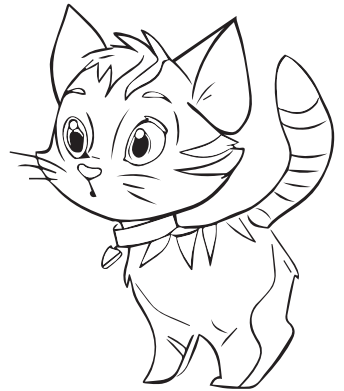
Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Fill in the missing letters.

Which vegetable should you
not invite on a boat trip?

_____ _____
 - - - - l - k

What is a kitten's
favorite dessert?



_____ _____
 m i r a m

I am a cat from Africa with a
large mane of hair. What am I?

_____ _____
 - - - - i o n

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Trace each letter. Then, write the letters to fill the lines.

l

L

a

A

g

G

Directions: Trace each letter. Then, write the missing letters to complete the words.

once

on e

always

lwarys

good

ood