

Shirley's Book # 4

Poems

For Practicing

Beginning
Cursive

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Peterson Directed Handwriting

Dear Teacher,

We have compiled over 45 lessons for you to use for directed practice. Your direction is a necessary ingredient if the students are to discover enough confidence to use fluent writing speed. Without your influence there is little chance that pupils will work at writing speed. Fluency for the lateral joining movement will improve with practice when you coach pupils to practice controlled letter rhythms.

The lessons are designed for use with inexpensive practice paper as well as being reproducible. For best results with spacing perceptions, use paper that is 8.5" x 7", ruled 3/8" - the long way. If your paper is wider, I suggest you use a trimmer to cut it to 8.5" wide.

Building confidence in the process takes time and practice. We recommend the use of practice paper because it is less threatening. It is also important for confidence, to save papers for comparison to the next effort. Pick your best and discard the rest - next time we'll get better! Children need to see the progress they are making. A demonstration of personal progress can help to prevent an "I Can't" attitude.

Forward slant should be natural, evolving from left-to-right progression and the use of physical position which will allow that controlled lateral movement to be made more rapidly. Fluency can increase dramatically with good coaching. Be sure to stress good position and pencil holding. Legibility of applied writing will always be directly affected by the position skills we establish now.

Developmental Targets:

- 1. Hold the paper in an adult writing position.
This is a critical developmental step toward fluent use of handwriting and the reason these models are simple and easy to read. As "how-to-build-letters" skill is established, pupils can begin to "think in words." The increased speed this confidence affords, coupled with improved paper and pencil position, should quite naturally produce forward slant.*
- 2. Gross motor patterns are the goal.
The size of the writing is purposeful. We are trying to train arm muscles rather than finger muscles alone.*
- 3. Understand how cursive works.
Look closely to see the subtle demonstration of "cursive print" in the first 20 or so models. As letter formation and word spelling are integrated, the control patterns established by "cursive print" will provide the pupil with a letter rhythm pattern that will help to maintain legibility as joined fluency improves.*

Have fun as you enjoy the success of your students and thank you for caring about handwriting skill development.

Sincerely,

Peterson Directed Handwriting

Time for work
And time for play,
I like school
When it's that way.

Hear the bell
School's begun.

Hurry, hurry,
We'll have fun.

A is for apple
shiny and red.

B is for baby
asleep in bed.

Hands are still.

Lips are silent.

Ears listen.

Feet are quiet.

Skip, jump,
Run and play.

Mr. Sunshine

Is here today.

Look at me!

Is it showing?

Can you see?

I am growing.

See the leaves
Falling down,
Red, orange,
Yellow, brown.

Ghosts, bats,
Witches, cats,
Halloween is
a scary night.

In reading class
Hold a hand high.
Teacher will know
You want to try.

See the candles
In a neat row,
Making shadows
As they glow.

A simple tree
An evergreen,
Dressed so nice
Wants to be seen.

Winter is here.

For sure, I know.

I looked out,

I saw snow!

Little stars
Made of snow,
Some fall fast,
Others slow.

The wind blows,
White flakes fall.
Winter is fun
For one and all.

Mr. Snowman
Come let's play,
Before the sun
Melts you away.

Snowflakes
Floating down
Softly cover
All the ground.

Gifts to wrap

Cookies to bake.

Santa's coming.

Can I wait?

Tasty canes
Red and white
On the tree
Lights so bright.

Mix and fix
Sugar and spice,
Holiday treats
Must look nice.

Will he come
In his sleigh
Bringing gifts
On Christmas Day?

Clap hands,

Sing with glee,

It's here at last.

Happy are we!

Ring the bells
Loud and clear.
Tell everyone
Santa's here.

Our tree shines,
Colors bright.
I feel happy
In the light.

The Seasons
Winter, Spring,
Summer, Fall,
I like them all.

Rain or snow,
Clouds or sun,
The wind blows
And I have fun.

I feel happy,

I feel fine.

You just gave

me a Valentine.

Do you love me?
Or do you not?
You told me once,
But I forgot!

I feel happy

I feel fine!

When I open

A Valentine.

Pigs love mud.

Cows love squash.

I love you

I do by gosh!

Candy is great.
Flowers are fine.
I want you
For my Valentine.

Hello jump rope,

Hello swing.

Good-bye Winter,

Hello Spring!

I see a crocus.

I see a kite.

Good-bye Winter,

Spring's in sight.

Winter is past.
Don't expect snow.
Spring at last!
A breeze said so.

Aren't you happy
Now it's Spring,
The flowers bloom
And everything?

Get your boots,
Raincoats too.
April has come
To play with you.

April! April!

Winter has run.

April! April!

Spring is fun.

My back is brown.

My breast is red.

A cap of black

Is on my head.

Nice Spring air,
Here comes rain.
A farmer wants
To plant his grain.

A yellow cup,
A yellow frill,
A yellow star -
It's a daffodil!

Close your eyes,
Do not peek,
I'll rub Spring
Across your cheek.

Roses love sun.

Violets love dew.

Angels love all,

And I love you.

Bright May flowers
And sunny hours,
Make my Spring
A special thing.

How does it know,
This little seed,
To make a flower
Or make a weed?

Water lilies

In a pond


Give me a pad


To sit upon.





Rhythm Leader


For technical support call 1-800-541-NEAT (6328), 8am-4pm eastern time.


 1. curve down
2. sharp top
3. rock


 1. round top
2. sharp top


 1. loop slant
2. roll slant
3. rock


 1. round top
2. round top


 1. rock, slant
2. trace around
3. loop around
4. rock


 1. loop top
2. sharp trace


 1. curve down
2. rock
3. swing


 1. round top
2. rock


 1. loop down
2. curve around


 1. rock-hook, slant


 1. rock, slant
2. trace around


 1. sharp top
2. round top


 1. twist down
2. loop twist
3. rock swing


 1. round top
2. sharp top


 1. loop curve
2. loop twist


 1. round top
2. sharp top
3. rock


 1. loop down
2. curve around
3. loop around


 1. loop top


 1. rock, slant
2. trace around
3. loop slant
4. rock


 1. sharp-roof, slant


 1. twist down
2. rock hook
3. right twist


 1. loop top
2. rock


 1. rock up
2. loop twist
3. rock


 1. sharp-slant, curve


 1. rock up, rock
2. slant curve
3. rock


 1. round top
2. sharp top


 1. twist down
2. smile
3. right twist


 1. sharp top
2. cross


 1. loop slant
2. curve slant
3. trace swing


 1. loop top
2. round top


 1. loop slant
2. rock slant
3. rock


 1. sharp top
2. sharp top


 1. roll up
2. curve down
3. rock


 1. sharp top
2. dot


 1. loop slant
2. rock up, roll


 1. round top
2. sharp trace


 1. roll up
2. slant
3. roll


 1. sharp top


 1. loop curve
2. rock slant
3. roll


 1. sharp top
2. sharp top
3. sharp top


 1. loop slant
2. twist down
3. loop slant
4. rock


 1. loop top
2. round-hook, slant


 1. loop curve
2. curve down
3. rock


 1. round top
2. rock/cross


 1. rock loop
2. twist down
3. loop twist


 1. loop top


 1. loop slant
2. rock slant
3. roll

 1. round top
2. sharp top

 1. loop slant
2. roll slant
3. roll slant
4. rock

 1. round top
2. round top
3. round top

 1. loop curve
2. shoulder down
3. roll

 1. round top-shoulder down