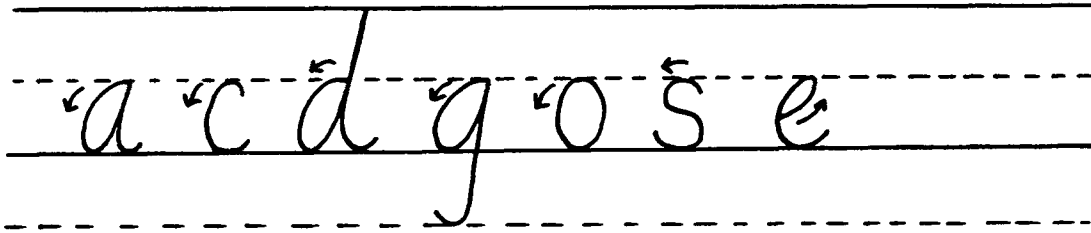


TEACHING LETTER FORMATIONS

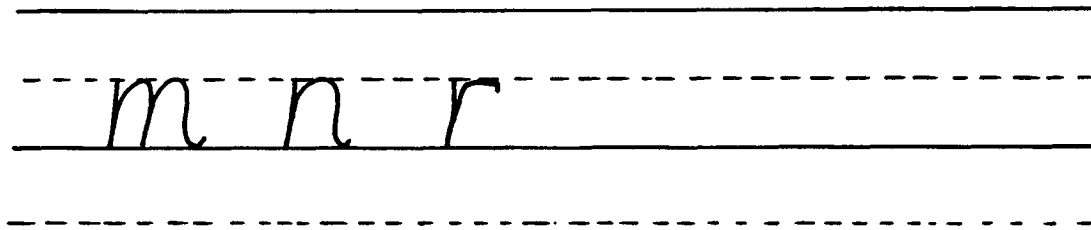
Here is an alternative method to use for teaching and practicing correct letter formation besides using colored lines or cartoon characters as described earlier in this section.

The teaching of letters should be made as simple as possible by grouping the letters in "families" based on their movement patterns as presented below.

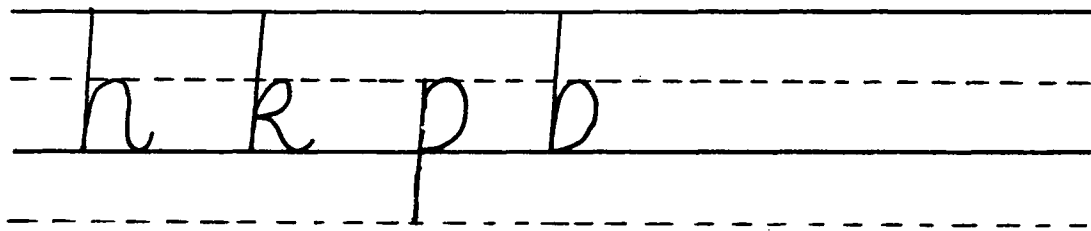
1. The counterclockwise "c" family: a, c, d, g, o, s, e



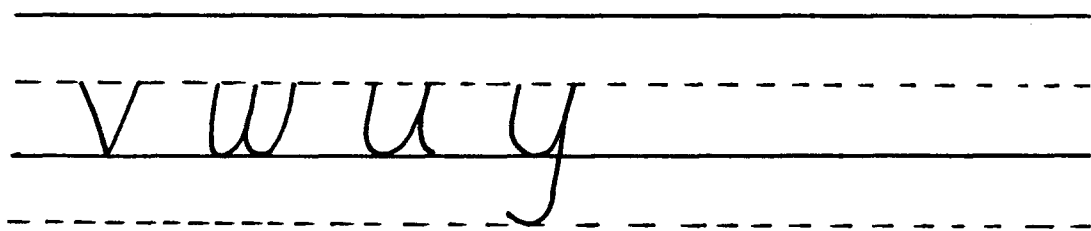
2. The clockwise family: m, n, r



3. The clockwise extension family: h, k, p, b

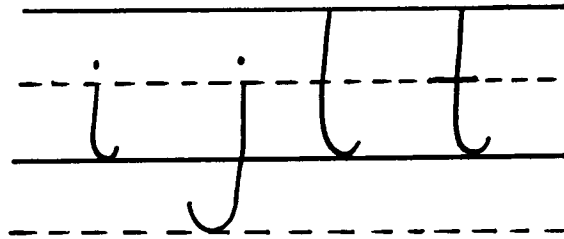


4. The "v and u" family: v, w, u, y

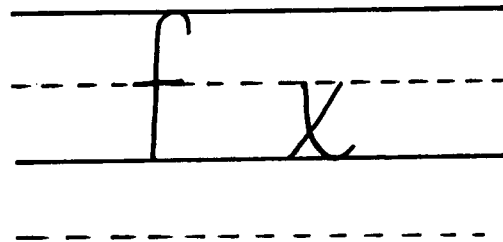


Note: Once the letters of a family have been learned, the children can then use them to make words; for example, dog.

5. The straight family: i, j, l, t



6. The "odd ones": f, x



These letter formations can be practiced using the pencil control activities of channeling and tracing as described earlier. Remember, an efficient grip needs to be established for the child to produce acceptable letter formations. Good teaching and patience are the key to success.

7. Use the reproducible on the next page on the next page to assess letter shapes.



LETTER SHAPES

Place a checkmark under each letter when the child can complete both the capital and lower case of the letter successfully.

Name	Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj	Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt	Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz