



## Quick Tips for Teaching and Learning

- ✓ If handwriting doesn't fit within your literacy block, it can be integrated with the teaching of letter sounds for students in the early grades.
- ✓ Have students practice fine-motor patterns by forming new letters in the air using a sweeping movement with their entire arm.
- ✓ Students can build the strength in their hands and increase endurance by using small pencils to write.
- ✓ Using a handheld pencil sharpener promotes in-hand manipulation, bilateral hand coordination, and strength to rotate the pencil within the hand.
- ✓ Follow a handwriting sequence that takes into account both ease of formation and frequency in words.
- ✓ Written arrow cues for tracing letters and numbers are important so that students do not practice incorrect formation.
- ✓ When teaching cursive, focus on the connections between letters as well as the formation of single letters.
- ✓ While speed is important, it should not be emphasized until students can form letters legibly and from memory.