

# Messages for Parents PENPALS for Handwriting



During this year, correct letter formation should become an automatic habit. Don't encourage your child to write too small or too quickly. Trying to enforce small handwriting too soon can lead to a very cramped style, which is then difficult to make fluent. At the very end of this year, children will begin to join some pairs of letters within a word.

As a reminder, correct letter formation for lower-case letters is as follows. The arrows show the direction of your child's pencil:

abcdefghijklmn opqrstuvwxyz

Capital letters are formed as follows:

# ABCDEFGHIJKLMN PQRSTUVWXYZ

#### Letter families

Your child will still be thinking about the four letter families (similar letter shapes grouped together to help children form letters consistently).

| Long-legged giraffe   | litujy          | и              | LITUJ                | Y           |                       |     |
|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----|
| One-armed robot   | rbnhn           | akp            | RBNHM                | KP          |                       |     |
| Curty caterpllar  | cados           | gqef           | ff ss                | CAD         | OSGQEF                |     |
| Zig-zag monster   | zvwx            | zz             | zvwx                 |             |                       |     |
| Letter combinations   | ck qu           | ai igh         | oo ee oa             | ow          | ch wh                 |     |
| Joins<br>These four joins are introduce<br>a good place to start. | ed at the end o | of the year, s | o if your child is k | een to star | t joining, then these | are |
| Diagonal join to ascender   | ch              | Diagonal       | join, no ascende     | r ai        |                       |     |
| Horizontal join to ascender                                       | wh              | Horizoniai     | join, no ascende     | r ow        |                       |     |

# **Handwriting Guide For Parents**

**JE Gale** 

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#### **Table of Contents Handwriting Guide For Parents**

- 1. Understanding the eBook Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents User Reviews and Ratings
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Handwriting Guide For Parents Free and Paid eBooks
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents Public Domain eBooks
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents eBook Subscription Services
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents Budget-Friendly Options

- 6. Navigating Handwriting Guide For Parents eBook Formats
  - o ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents Compatibility with Devices
  - Handwriting Guide For Parents Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Interactive Elements Handwriting Guide For Parents
- 8. Staying Engaged with Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Handwriting Guide For Parents
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Handwriting Guide For Parents
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Setting Reading Goals Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Handwriting Guide For Parents
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements

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