

Introduction

Charlotte Mason taught beginning handwriting through a method called, copywork. Essentially, children are to copy the letters and sentences they see as carefully and as perfectly as they can. Lessons are to be kept short, with an emphasis on the quality of work rather than the quantity of work. This is why you will find only a few letters or numbers on each page of this booklet. You will also notice that these lessons are not in alphabetical order. Miss Mason suggested learning all the letters that are formed by the same strokes together, solidifying the technique in the muscle memory of your child's hand and mind.

Only begin copywork when your child is ready. If writing letters and numbers is new, try utilizing **option one** of this booklet. Your child may place beans, pebbles or sticky wax strips in the large numbers + letters at the top of the practice pages. For **option two**, the student may try coloring or painting the large numbers + letters.

Helpful Hints

- Use a clean work surface, free of clutter
- Be sure the table + chair are an appropriate height for the child
- Use proper pencil grip
- Keep all pencil strokes neat
- Lessons should only last 5 to 10 minutes
- Do not rush into writing small
- Encourage large, simple, + precise pencil strokes

Find more tips and tools for handwriting at
www.kyriezimmerman.com/handwriting

“IF CHILDREN GET THE HABIT OF TURNING OUT IMPERFECT WORK,
THE MEN AND WOMEN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY KEEP THAT HABIT UP.”
CHARLOTTE MASON

Lesson 1

Option One

Supplies

- Pan of sand or small grain such as couscous or quinoa
 - Alternatively, depending on the weather + your surroundings, go outside to do lessons in a small patch of dry dirt.
- *Copywork: An Introduction to Handwriting*

Instruction

- Using the medium of your choice, draw a single vertical line for your child. Have your child mimic your drawing as closely as he can using his index finger. Repeat this process using a horizontal line.

Option Two

Supplies

- *Copywork: An Introduction to Handwriting* for each student
- Pencil

Instruction

- Instruct your child on proper pencil grip.
 - visit www.kyriezimmerman.com/handwriting for tips
- Trace vertical lines as neatly as possible, aiming for one perfect line per lesson
 - Repeat this process using a horizontal line

This lesson should be no longer than 10 minutes. Setting a timer can be a helpful tool for both parent + child.



Lesson 2

Option One

Supplies

- Pan of sand or small grain such as couscous or quinoa
 - Alternatively, depending on the weather + your surroundings, go outside to do lessons in a small patch of dry dirt.
 - Finger paint sealed in a plastic bag and taped to the tabletop is also a great alternative that many children enjoy.
- *Copywork: An Introduction to Handwriting*

Instruction

- Using the medium of your choice, draw a single letter L for your child. Start at the top of the letter. Draw a vertical line down, then a short horizontal line to the right. Have your child mimic your drawing as closely as he can using his index finger. Repeat this process, aiming for one perfect letter per lesson.

Option Two

Supplies

- *Copywork: An Introduction to Handwriting* for each student
- Pencil

Instruction

- Review proper pencil grip.
 - visit www.kyriezimmerman.com/handwriting for tips
- Trace the letters as neatly as possible, always starting at the black dot. Trace the vertical line first + without lifting the pencil, trace the horizontal line. After tracing, try a few on your own. Aim for one perfect letter per lesson.

This lesson should be no longer than 10 minutes.

