

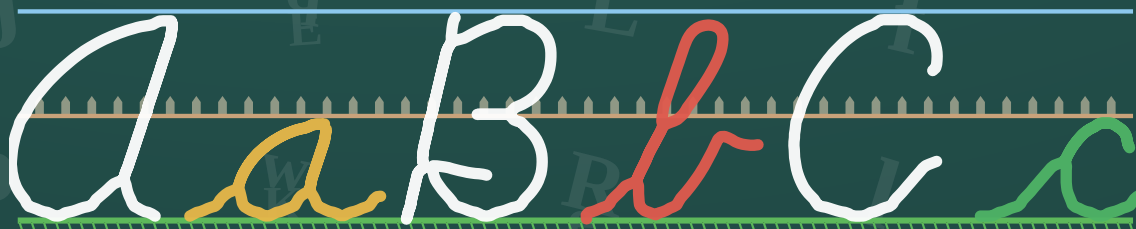
Bear Phonics Academy



Writing Series · Cursive Teacher Guide · Deep Spruce

Cursive Teacher Guide

Cursive Handwriting on the Bear Phonics Writing Mat



By Shanika "Mrs. Bear" Preston

✦ For parents & teachers · a to z · A to Z · Book words ✦



Bear Phonics Academy

Cursive Teacher Guide

Cursive a to z • A to Z • Words from Books 1–35 • for parents and teachers



Mrs. Bear's step-by-step way to teach cursive on the **Bear Phonics Writing Mat**. Pairs with the Bear Phonics Cursive Workbook and the online Cursive Class.





How Bear Phonics Cursive works

Cursive is the next step after **Bear Phonics Writing** (print). Children use the same **Bear Phonics Writing Mat** (Sky, Fence, Grass, Dirt) and the same teaching pattern: **watch** Mrs. Bear, **follow the dots, start at the dots**, then **all by myself**. Teach one letter at a time, in order, and review every day.

Letters hold hands

Every little letter starts **on the grass** with a **lead-in** and ends with a **tail** that reaches for the next letter. o, b, v and w end with a **bridge** across the fence.

a to z, one letter a lesson

Letters are taught in **ABC order**. Each lesson adds **words made only from the letters learned so far** (ab, ba, cab, dad...) and the **alphabet string**, a to the new letter.

Then joins and capitals

Two joining lessons (joins at the fence after o, b, v, w; joins from below the grass after g, j, y, z, q), then capitals A to Z, each with a name to write.

Then words from the books

Words come from **BEAR Phonics Books 1–35**, in book order (3 per book), so reading and writing grow together.

A 10-minute lesson

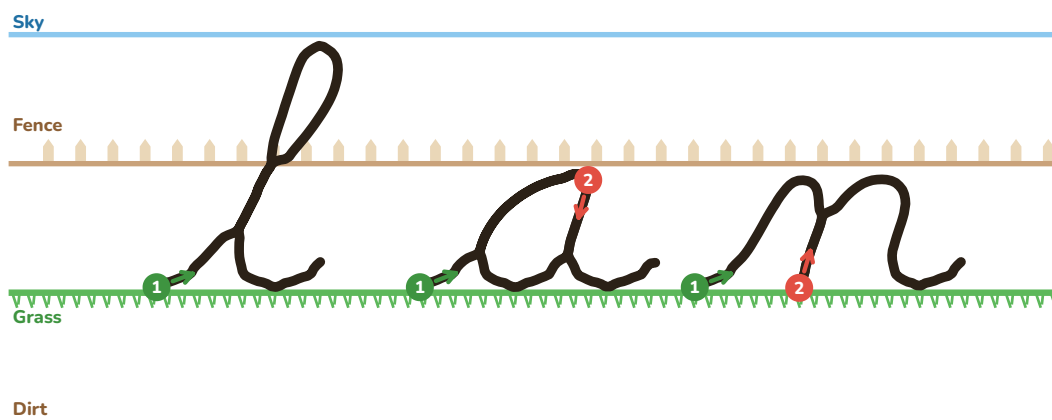
Time	What to do
1 min	Get ready. Feet flat, back tall. Tilt the paper: right-handers tilt it to the left, left-handers to the right.
2 min	Watch. Show the letter on the mat (or play it in the online Cursive Class). Say the words on the letter page exactly.
2 min	Follow the dots. Child says the letter's name each time.
2 min	Start at the dots. Watch the lead-in: it must start on the grass.
2 min	All by myself. Praise the start, the direction and the joins.
1 min	Review. Write the letters learned so far, or the book words for this week.

When to start: once a child can write print a to z on the mat without help (usually ages 6 and up; younger children can try the lead-ins and loops as play).





Say this on the mat



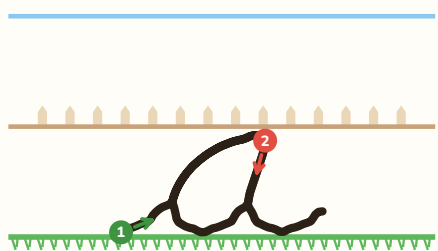
Say this	It means
"Start on the grass."	Every little cursive letter begins on the bottom line.
"Climb up the hill."	The lead-in: a curved line from the grass up to the fence (or the sky).
"Climb up the outside of Bear's face."	Around letters: the lead-in goes up the left side of the circle to the top, then the circle goes around to the left.
"Make a hump, up and over."	The start of n, m, v, x, y, z, and the humps in h, m, n.
"Make a tall loop."	l, b, h, k, f: climb up toward the sky, loop, and slide down.
"Swing up a tail."	The exit stroke that reaches for the next letter.
"Slide across the fence."	The bridge at the end of o, b, v, w.
"Keep your pencil down."	Write the whole word, then dot i/j and cross t/x.

Paper and pencil

- Cursive slants a little to the right. Tilting the paper makes the slant easy.
- Left-handed writers: tilt the paper the other way and keep the hand below the line.
- Hold the pencil softly; cursive should feel smooth, not pressed.

Joining tips

- After **o, b, v, w** the next letter joins from the fence, not from the grass.
- **e** after o, b, v, w dips down a little, then loops.
- Most capitals don't join; start the next letter with its lead-in.



Around letter

Cursive a

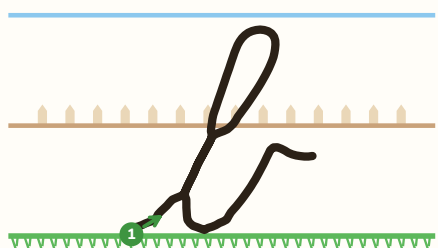
This is cursive a. It is an around letter: climb up to the fence, then go around Bear's face, just like print c. It lives between the fence and the grass.

1 · Say: "Start on the grass. Under curve up to the fence, then down curve back around Bear's face and close it at the top."

2 · Say: "Slant down to the grass, then under curve up a little tail."

Watch for: Climb up the OUTSIDE of Bear's face to the top of his head, then go around to the left. Close the circle at the top before the line comes down.

Words with the letters learned so far: aa · **Alphabet string:** a to a



Loop letter

Cursive b

This is cursive b. It is a loop letter: climb up and make a loop. It is tall. It reaches up toward the sky.

1 · Say: "Start on the grass. Under curve way up to the sky, loop back, slant down to the grass, under curve up to the fence, and make a little bridge across."

Watch for: Make the loop open and tall enough to see. The line crosses on the way down, not on the way up.

Words with the letters learned so far: ab, ba · **Alphabet string:** a to b