

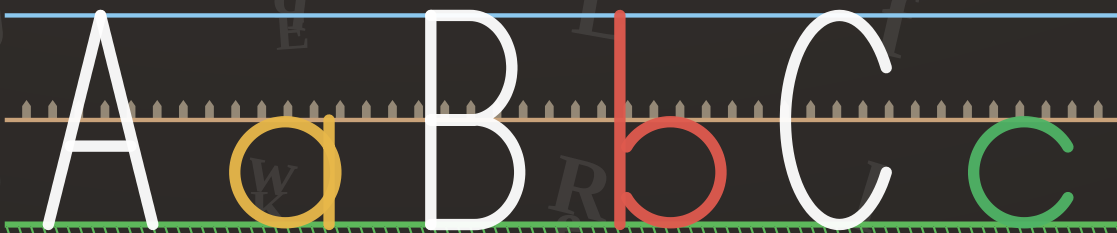
Bear Phonics Academy



Writing Series • Teacher Guide • Black & Gold

Writing Teacher Guide

Manuscript Handwriting on the Bear Phonics Writing Mat



By Shanika "Mrs. Bear" Preston

✦ For parents & teachers • a to z • A to Z ✦



Bear Phonics Academy

Writing Teacher Guide

Manuscript • a to z • A to Z • for parents and teachers



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





How Bear Phonics Writing works

Children learn handwriting best when every letter is **taught directly**: the grown-up shows each stroke, says the same simple words every time, and the child says the letter's name while writing it. Bear Phonics Writing keeps everything the same from a to z, so children can focus on the letter, not on new directions.

The same mat every day

Four lines with friendly names: **Sky, Fence, Grass** and **Dirt**. Every letter sits on the grass.

Bear's face for round letters

Round letters start at **Bear's right ear** and go **up**. Bear's ears, top of head, cheeks, nose and chin are the landmarks.

Lines start at the top

Every straight line starts at the top and pulls down. Lines across go **the way we read**, left to right.

Say the name

Children say the letter's name each time they write it. This links the shape, the hand movement and the name.

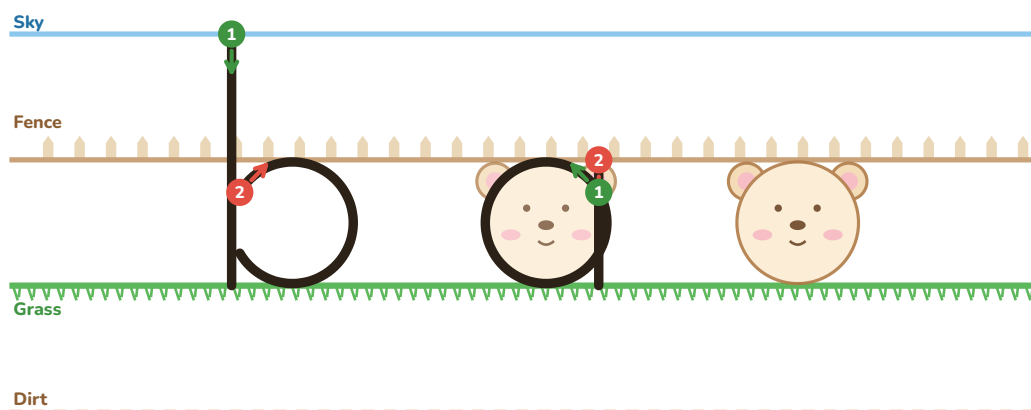
A 10-minute lesson

Time	What to do
1 min	Get ready. Feet flat, back tall, paper hand holds the paper, pencil hand relaxed (see next page).
2 min	Watch. Show the letter stroke by stroke on the mat (or play it in the online Writing Class). Say the script on the letter page word for word.
2 min	Follow the dots. Child writes on the dotted rows, saying the letter's name each time.
2 min	Start at the dots. Only the start dots are given. Watch the first stroke closely.
2 min	All by myself. Child writes on the empty mat. Praise the start point and direction, not just neatness.
1 min	Alphabet string. Write all the letters learned so far, in ABC order, saying each name.

Teach in ABC order, one letter a day (little and big together), or two a day for older children. Review earlier letters every day in the alphabet string.



The Bear Phonics Writing Mat



Say this	It means
"Start at the sky."	Begin on the top line (tall letters, all capitals).
"Start at the fence."	Begin on the middle line (short letters).
"Pull a straight line down to the grass."	Straight down, stopping on the bottom line.
"...into the dirt."	Tails of g, j, p, q, y go below the grass.
"Go back up to the fence."	Retrace up the same line without lifting.
"Make a hump, up and over."	The round top of m, n, h, r.
"Start at Bear's right ear. Go up over the top of his head..."	Round letters a, c, d, g, o, q, s (and C, G, O, Q, S) start on the upper right and go UP and over to the left.
"...the way we read."	Lines across go left to right.
"Lift your pencil."	Start a new stroke at the top.

Sitting and holding the pencil

- Feet flat on the floor, back tall, chair close to the table.
- The **paper hand** holds the paper still and moves it; the **writing hand** only writes.
- Pinch the pencil between the thumb and pointer finger, resting on the middle finger, about an inch from the tip. Keep the hand soft, not squeezing.
- Left-handed writers: tilt the paper so it follows the left arm.

Letter families

Line letters (start at the top): b h i j k l m n p r t u v w x y z, and A B D E F H I J K L M N P R T U V W X Y Z.

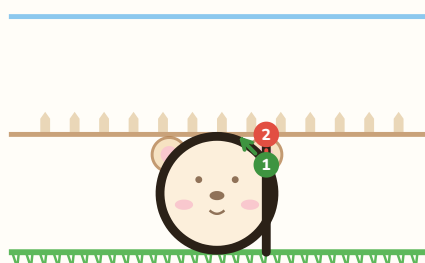
Bear's-ear letters (start at the right ear, go up): a c d g o q s, and C G O Q S.

Special starts: e (cheek to cheek, across the nose) and f (hook just under the sky).



Aa Teaching a and A

Say the words exactly the same way every time. Child says "a" (the letter's name) each time they write it. Online: Writing Class → Aa.



Around Bear, then fence to grass.

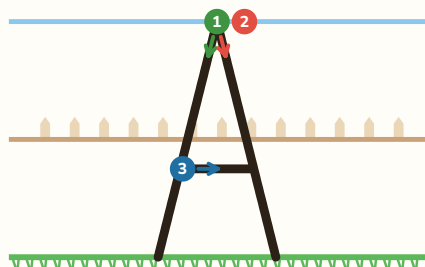
Little a

Little a lives between the fence and the grass.

1 · Say: "Start at Bear's right ear. Go up over the top of his head, down past his left cheek, around under his chin, and back up to his right ear."

2 · Say: "Now start at the fence, right next to Bear's ear, and pull a straight line down to the grass. That's a!"

Watch for: Starts at Bear's right ear and goes UP first, never down. Then lift and start the line at the fence, pulling down to the grass.



Slant down, slant down, across.

Big A

Big A is a tall letter. It reaches all the way up to the sky.

1 · Say: "Start at the sky. Slant down to the grass."

2 · Say: "Lift your pencil. Start at the sky again, and slant down the other way."

3 · Say: "Now draw a line across, just under the fence. That's big A!"

Watch for: Both slants start at the top. The line across goes the way we read.