

Handwriting Intensives

at The Children's Therapy & Learning Center

While learning to write—and write neatly—may come easily to some children, others struggle with this essential skill.

Handwriting requires a multitude of underlying systems to function at an optimal level for maximum success. Good handwriting requires proper postural control and proximal stability, well developed arches and intrinsic musculature of the hands, an appropriate pencil grasp, strong visual motor and perceptual skills, ocular motility, memory, sensory processing, and integration of the primitive reflexes.

It is essential that drawing and handwriting training be provided in a nurturing and caring manner to foster each child's self-confidence. *Children must write in school daily, and the inability to write legibly or fast enough can keep them from reaching their academic goals.*

At **The Children's Therapy & Learning Center**, our goal is to make handwriting fun and engaging for all children from ages 3 through 15 years, starting with pre-writing strokes. Our developmentally appropriate instruction uses hands-on materials to inspire learning through visual, auditory and tactile-kinesthetic strategies—ways that children learn best! We focus not only on handwriting, but also on addressing each child's underlying deficit(s) that may cause handwriting to be a challenge.

Handwriting Intensives are three days per week to allow for repetition so the brain's neuropathways develop quicker and stronger. We customize each child's program to target precisely where their system needs improvement to increase response and progress. Our approach includes multi-sensory strategies, whole-brain learning, and the Handwriting Without Tears® program to improve children's success with this important skill.

A screening is required before enrolling in a Handwriting Intensive and consists of assessing:

- Proximal muscles (core, shoulders, and neck)
- Hand strength
- Pencil grasp
- Ocular motor skills
- Visual motor & visual perceptual skills
- Visual memory
- Primitive reflex integration
- Dominance factors
- Letter / word sizing, placement, spacing, etc.

For more information and to schedule a pre-screening, please contact Kari Thompson at (208) 957-6301 or by email at kari@childrenstlc.com.

