



VERBALIZATIONS FOR PRINT LETTERS

In the introductory lesson for each new letter use verbalizations: language that describes which way the students have to move their hands to form the new letter correctly.

Use the verbalizations while you demonstrate how to write the letter on the classroom's board, and while your students trace the large model of the letter in their handwriting books. On the subsequent page, where the children trace small models of the letter, you can stop giving verbal instructions for that letter.

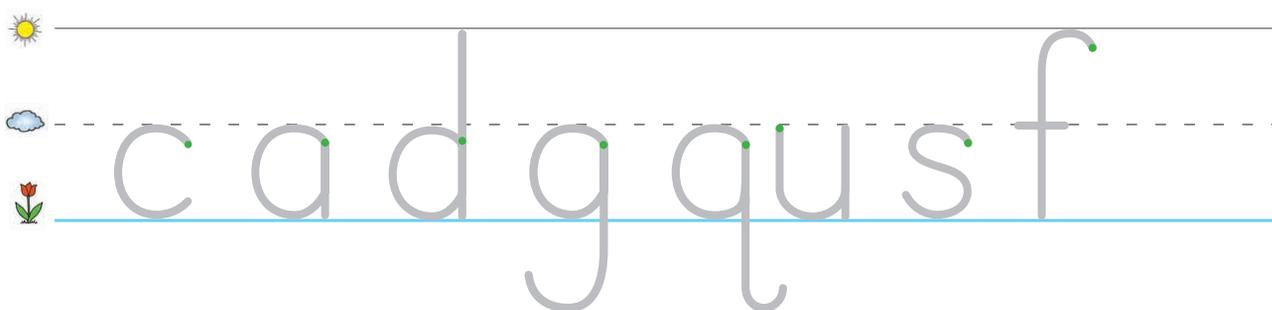
Below are suggested verbalizations for the lower-case print letters. Your students do not need to memorize these verbalizations, but they may find them useful as a reference. When it comes time to teach the capital letters, use your own verbalizations. Just remember to always emphasize the starting line and directional changes for each letter.

Lower-Case Print Letter Groups

Curvy Letters

Teach the children that when you say *curvy letter*, they should put their pencils slightly below the cloud line.

The curvy letters are the only printed letters that do not begin on a line. Have your students put their pencils slightly below the cloud line and go up and over toward the red.



c = curvy letter, up to the cloud line, toward the red, sit on the flower line

a = curvy letter, up to the cloud line, toward the red, close the circle leave down

d = curvy letter, up to the cloud line, toward the red, close the circle, up to the sun line and down

g = curvy letter, up to the cloud line, toward the red, close the circle, down, almost to the next sun line, turn to the red

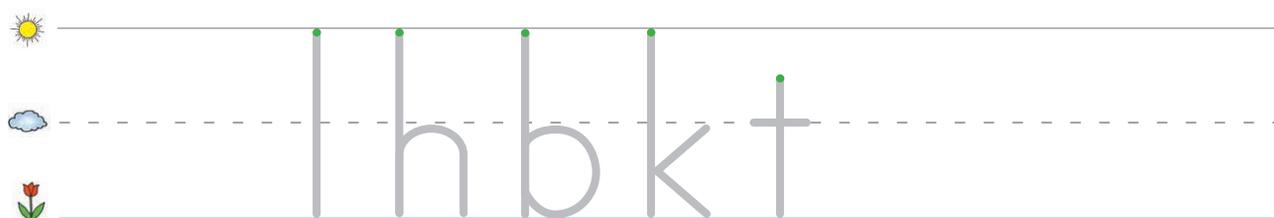
qu = curvy letter, up to the cloud line, toward the red, close the circle, down almost to the next sun line, away from the red. The qu is never written without u.
The q turns away from the red to make a pocket for the u

s = curvy letter, up to the cloud line, toward the red, away, back toward the red

f = tall curvy letter, start slightly under the sun line, to the sun line, toward the red, pull straight down and cross on cloud line

Tall Letters

Teach the children that when you say *tall letter* they should put their pencils on the sun line and pull down to the flower line. The t is a *teenage* letter.



= tall letter



= tall letter, up to the cloud line, away from the red, down to the flower line



= tall letter, up to the cloud line, away from red, close the circle



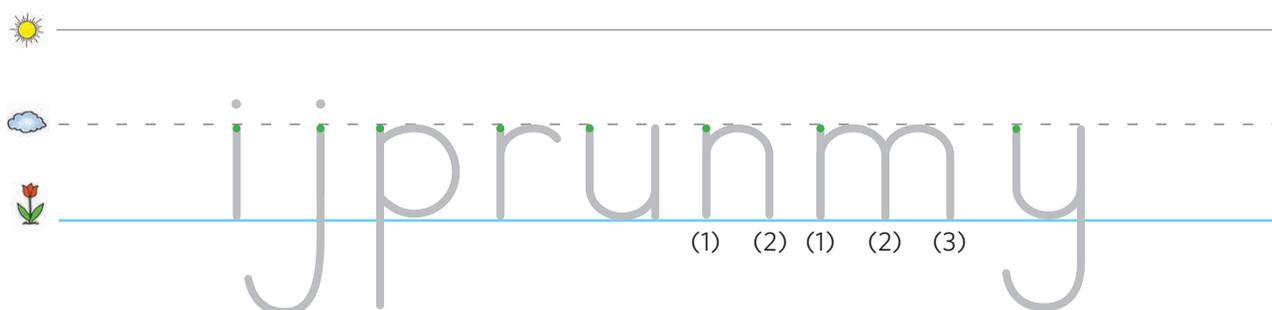
= tall letter, cloud line, in and out



= teenage letter (not quite as high as the tall letters), straight down and cross on the cloud line

Short Letters

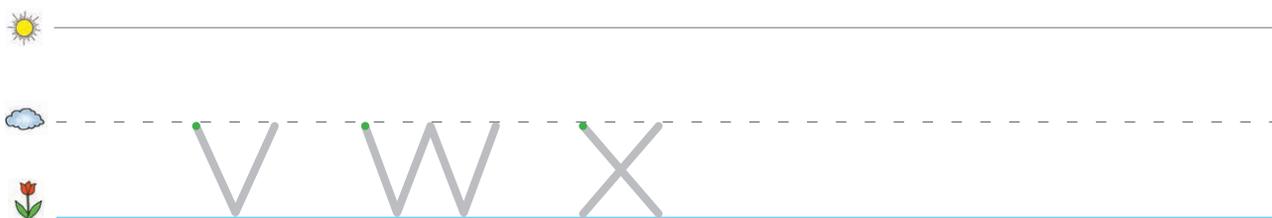
Teach the children that when they hear *short letter*, they should put their pencils on the cloud line and pull straight down. The numerals indicate the number of times the pencil hits the flower line.



- i = short letter, dot
- j = short letter, pull down almost to the next sun line, turn toward the red, dot
- p = short letter, pull down almost to the next sun line, up to the cloud line, away from the red, close circle
- r = short letter, up to the cloud line, away from the red
- u = short letter, turn away from the red, up to the cloud line and down
- n = short letter, 1, 2 (counting the number of times the pencil hits the flower line)
- m = short letter, 1, 2, 3
- y = short letter, turn away from red, up to the cloud line, pull almost to the next sun line, up again and toward the red

Slanty Letters

Teach the children that when they hear *slanty letter*, they should put their pencils on the cloud line and slant down and away from the red.



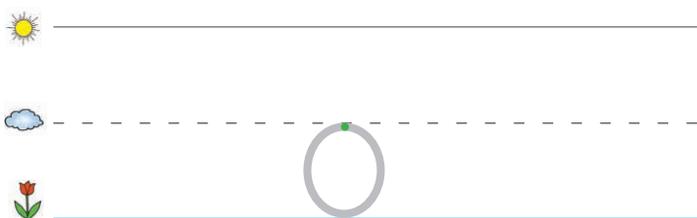
V = slanty letter, slant up

W = slanty letter, slant up, slant down, slant up

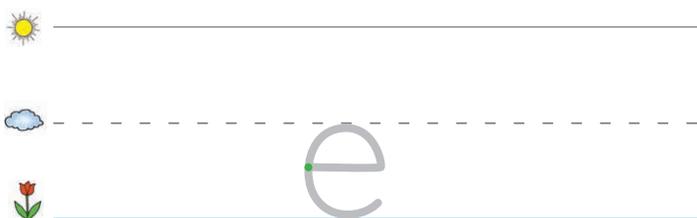
X = slanty letter, lift, slant toward red

Letters That Are Not Taught in Group

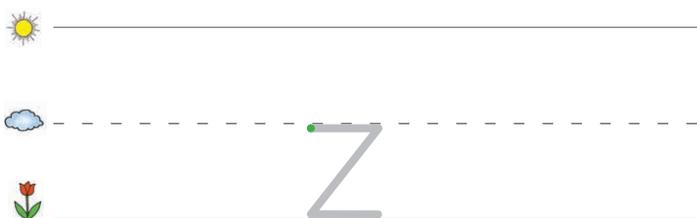
The letter *o* is not taught as a *curvy letter* in order to form it the way the letter is written in cursive. The letters *e* and *z* begin with a line that goes away from the red.



O = cloud line, around toward the red, close circle



e = away from the red, up to the cloud line, to the red, sit on the flower line

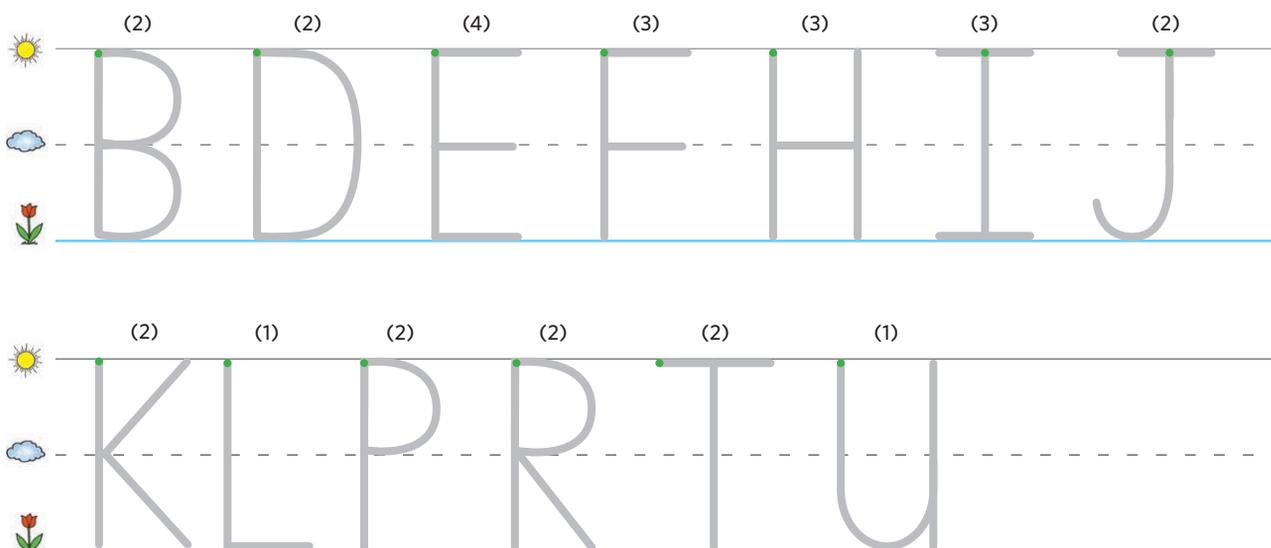


Z = away from the red, slant toward the red, away from the red

Capital Print Letter Groups

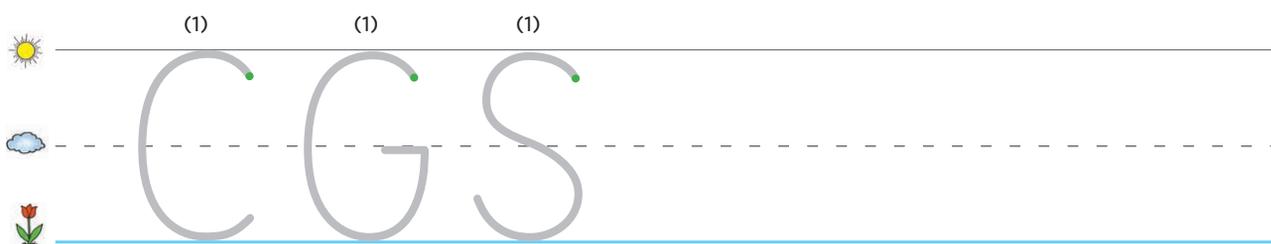
Capital Tall Letters

Most capital letters begin with a straight line down from the sun line. The number of strokes is indicated in parentheses over each letter.



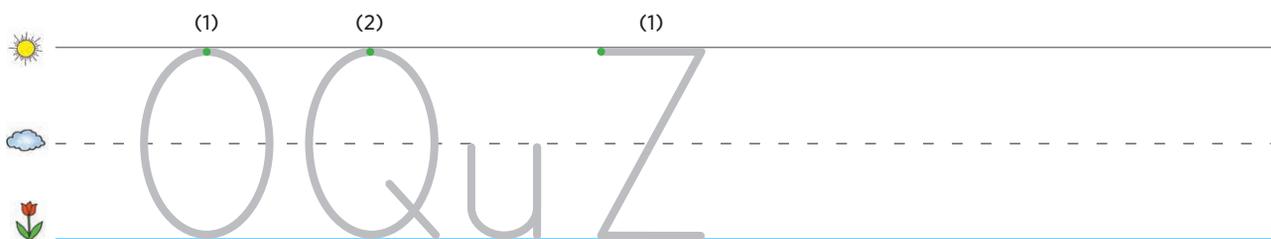
Capital Curvy Letters

Teach the children to put their pencils under the sun line when they hear *curvy* capital letters.



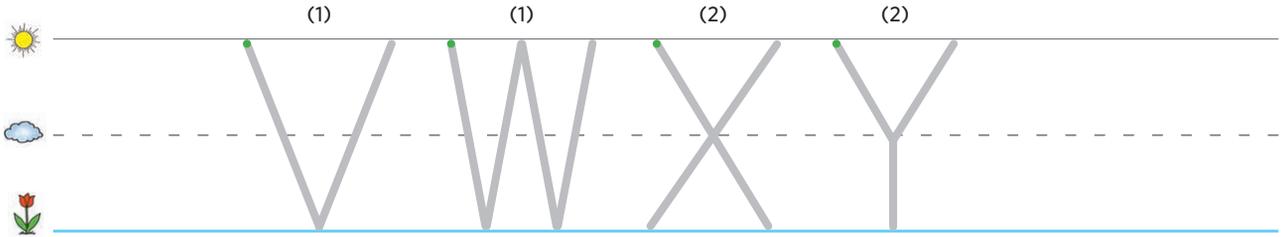
Capital Letters Not Taught in a Group

Teach the children that these three capital letters start on the sun line.



Capital Slanty Letters

Teach the children to put their pencils on the sun line and slant away from the red when they hear *slanty letter* for a capital.



Capital Letters that Start on the Flower Line

Teach the children that these are the only three capital letters that start on the flower line.

