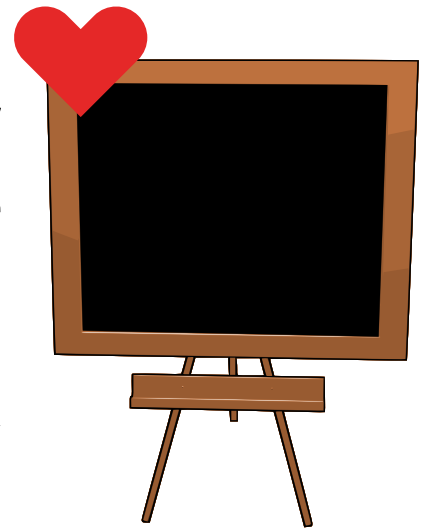
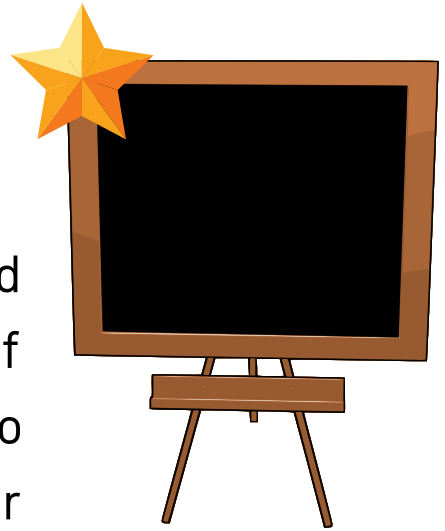


LETTERS REVERSED?

Does your child struggle with letter reversals?

Let's go back to the foundation. Your child needs to know where the TOP LEFT is. If you have stickers at home you can start to put one on the TOP LEFT of everything your child sees: jotters, door frames, placemats, the fridge... whatever you consider acceptable. Use stars / hearts / Peppa pig / smiley faces / whatever you have at home right now. Or make your own and stick them on with blu-tac. This is where your capitals and numbers letters start. (with a few exceptions but lets focus on the "rule" and not the exceptions for now!



If your school runs the "Handwriting Without Tears" program as their formal teaching curriculum they will have used a smiley face so stick with that. (I highly recommend this program by the way! Ask if you want more details)



LETTERS REVERSED?

Capital D, B and Number 3

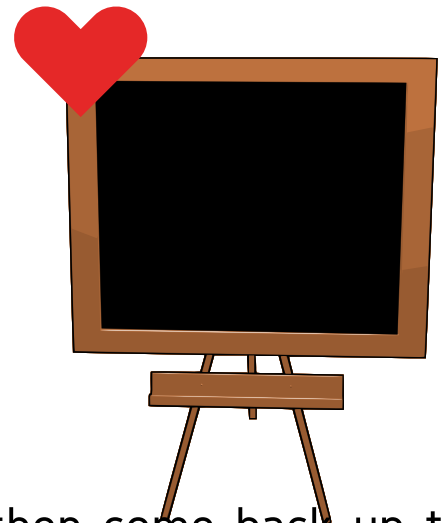
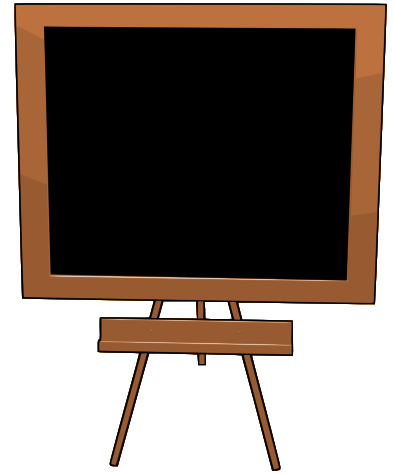
Ask your child if they remember where the where the shape is on the page. "Down here?" NO! (I hear them shout, silly mummy/ daddy/ nana) "Over here"?... NO!.. you get the idea. Oh, up here on the left? Of course!

This is the secret clue (every kid likes a secret!) to where to start your capitals. Always at the top and in most cases on that LEFT hand side. When they start to write from the bottom or to reverse ask them "where is the star?" and see if they can self-correct.

Start with the down-stroke for D, B, E, F then come back up to the top and add on the next parts of the letter. Be the voice you want them to hear in their own heads speaking out loud what they need to be saying to themselves.

- "Start at the....."
- "Go all the way down to the bottom"
- "Back to the top THEN" into whatever the letter it is.

After a little while they will hear your voice coaching them even when you aren't there saying it.



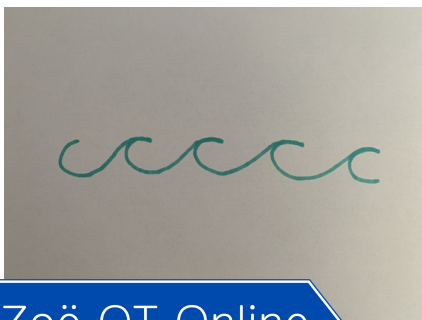
LETTERS REVERSED?

C is a "Magic c"

It always curves in the same direction. It is actually really important that it always curves in that direction (anti-clockwise) as when they progress to forming cursive letters (joined up writing) c,a,d,g,o etc cannot connect unless it was correctly written.



- See that crocodile up there? Show your child his eye goes where the smiley face/ star / heart is.
- They probably don't know the wonderful Pac-Man? I'm here to tell you to introduce your child to him...but tell him Pac man only wants to eat dots that travel across the page the way we write (left to right!). YUM yummmm! (Bring in a bit of silly role play if you have any drama within you;-). Now they have a mental-visual image to remind them that the "mouth" of Pac-Man should be open to the direction of writing.



- Practice making wave patters all in a line if your child has the motor control to do that. A joined up / cursive cccccc . Just one short line each day on a chalk board, white board or piece of paper.

LETTERS REVERSED?

NUMBERS

Apply what you already learned about the top left corner.

1 (too easy;-)

2 (you can do this...)

3 (now you are a pro...)

4 (start it in the top corner)

5 Please tell a little teaching story: A little man goes from his house (in the top left corner) for a nice walk on a cold winter day.

As he travels down the road (the left side of the page) he slips on some ice!! Arrrgghh!! He slides in a curvy shape until he hits the bottom corner. He bumps his head on the corner (poor old man). So he goes all the way home (to the top) and lays down in bed (draw the top line).

6 Now your child is getting bigger and knows the basic ones you can tell them you will let them know this one who "cheats". He should stand in the corner (starting from the sticker like the others) but he takes a step inwards and is a bit CHEAKY!!

7 (you've got it...)

8 (starts in the middle)

9 (starts at the wrong side!)

