

Sign In, Sign Up, Sign Off - Overview

Sign In / Sign Up / Sign Off: An Overview

WHAT AND WHY: Name writing is a classic goal that sometimes stays on the IEP for decades! Students typically practice name writing by copying and tracing, which leads to little or no generalization. Signing our name is a very important goal, as it is a part of who we are, so it is very important – but we need to address it using strategies that work!

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY ABOUT NAME WRITING:

- Name-writing offers an important window in on children’s emergent literacy understandings
- There is a bidirectional relationship between name writing and alphabet knowledge
- Name writing supports alphabet knowledge
- Alphabet knowledge supports name writing

***You have to teach the alphabet!

Cabell, S.Q., Justice, L.M., Zucker, T.A., & McGinty, A.S. (2009)

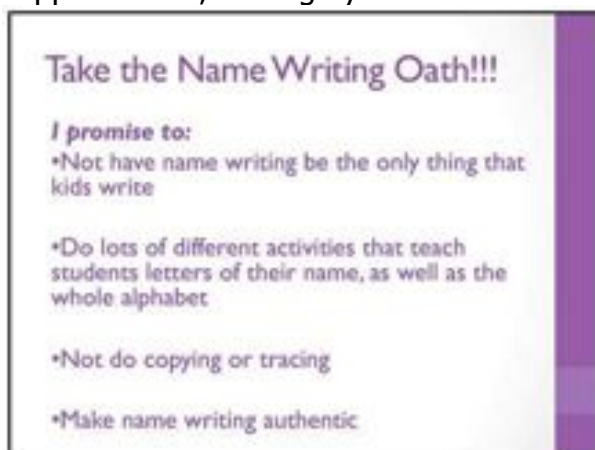
WHO IS THIS FOR: This tip should be shared with parents, teachers, and therapists of students who are struggling with handwriting. Examining the work that is required to form letters and place text on a paper can help teams decide if we need to consider an alternative pencil for a student. For more information on alternative pencils, see the May, 2009 Tip at AAC Intervention:

[Alternative Pencils Tip](#)

And follow this link for materials and instructions on using alternative pencils:

[Alternative Pencils - CLDS](#)

HOW DO WE SUPPORT NAME WRITING: Even with alternative pencils, students may struggle to select the correct letters, and will need strategic support. First, we urge you to take the ‘Name Writing Oath’ as shown below!



Dr. Gretchen Hanser, Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, & Deanna Kempka Wagner, MS

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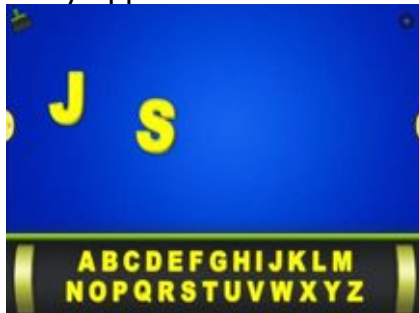
Remember: Writing Involves Both Form and Function:

- Form: how writing is made
- Function: the purposes of writing
- For students with significant disabilities, the focus is often on form due to their motor difficulties
- Don't let motor access get in the way!

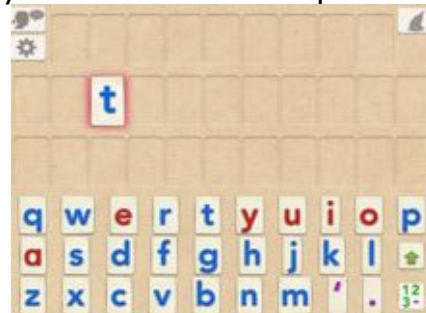
Your 'alternative pencils' might be high tech or light tech. The most important consideration is: "Pick a pencil that has the least brainpower going to form – make it as easy as possible!" (Dr. Gretchen Hanser, 2010).



Many apps make name writing fun and easy. Below are two samples:

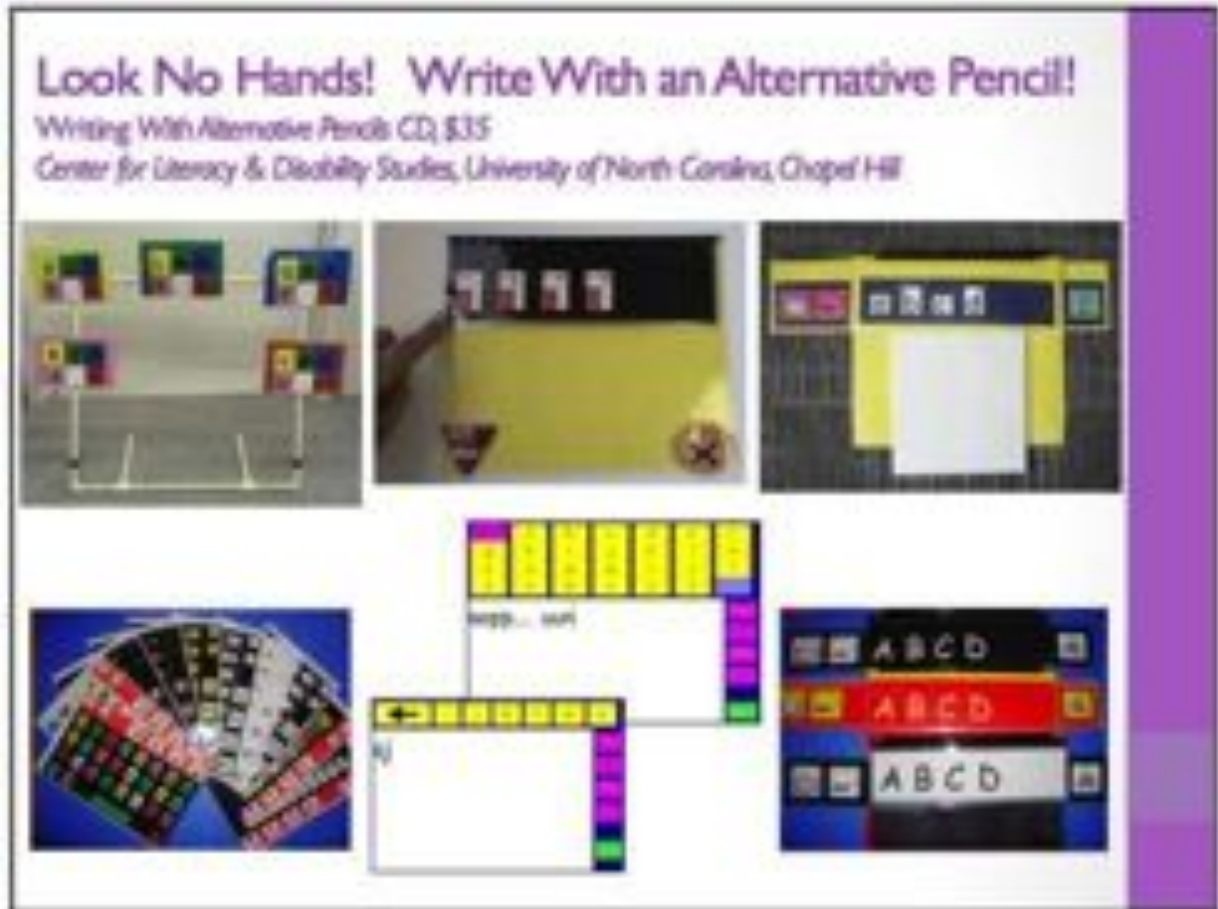


ABC Magnetic Alphabet
[ABC Magnetic Alphabet Information](#)



Word Wizard: Letters and Sounds
[Word Wizard Information](#)

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For more information on accessing the alphabet, check out this Pinterest Page: [Accessing the Alphabet](#)

Scaffolding Name Writing:

- **Sign In.** Students sign in for activities such as: class, Scouts, afterschool event
See the Sign In Tip – February, 2014, www.aacintervention.com
- **Sign Up.** Students sign up for desired activities such as: iPad / computer time; choosing foods for lunch; predictable chart writing; songs
See the Sign Up Tip – March, 2014, www.aacintervention.com
- **Sign Off.** Students sign off when leaving school, IEPs, cards, notes, petitions, artwork and crafts.
See the Sign Off Tip – April, 2014, www.aacintervention.com
- **Sign In Informal Assessment.** A range of informal assessments are available, including a data form.
See the Sign In Informal Assessment Tip – May, 2014, www.aacintervention.com