We use our laminated handwriting charts instead of handwriting books or programs. I teach the letter formation on the charts. Once the child knows the entire alphabet, we do *copywork instead of handwriting programs*. Copywork is a section selected from a book or reader, a scripture verse or a famous quote that the child copies neatly on lined paper. This makes handwriting practice meaningful.

- First print out and laminate the cursive charts.
- Start with the lower case letters and introduce the upper case letters once the child can form lower case letters without confusion or errors.
- **talk** as you show the child how to form the letters
- **watch closely** and wipe any mistakes out immediately and correct the writing before bad habits or confusion is set
- First **trace over**, then **copy**, then refer to chart until they can write without references

This method helps children ~

- familiarize themselves with the whole alphabet
- recognize letters and find them randomly
- learn to form letter shapes correctly
- practice short, happy lessons as Charlotte Mason suggests
Lower case cursive letters:

1. Find and copy over all round oval body letters ~ c, a, d, g, q
2. Find and copy over all the loop letters ~ l, b, h, f, k
3. Find and copy over top curve letters ~ n, m, p, r
4. Find and copy over bottom curve letters ~ u, v, w, y
5. Find and copy over dot and cross letters (only letters to lift pen to complete!) ~ i, j, t
6. Find and copy over e, s, x, z
7. Find and copy over bottom loop letters ~ g, j, y, z
Teaching Cursive Handwriting step-by-step

Upper case letters:

1. Find and copy over **oval** letters ~ O, Q, A, X
2. Find and copy over **loop** letters ~ C, G, L, S, E, Z
3. Find and copy over **curving over & under** letters ~ N, M, U, V, W, Y
4. Find and copy over **straight shape** letters ~ H, K, P, R, D, B
5. Find and copy over **start @ top** letters ~ T, F
6. Find and copy over **loop from middle** letters ~ I, J
Once your child knows the lower case letters, introduce the upper case letters. Then use the chart for reference and they’ll be able to do all their copywork easily.

I hope these tips help. You will find all my free downloads with lined handwriting pages, practice charts, step-by-step instructions, more tips and ideas on my blog at http://practicalpages.wordpress.com. You can write me a private email on the contactform on my AboutMe page.

Blessings,

Nadene