# Cursive Writing Implementation Guide
## Grades 2-5

## Overview

This program includes a Cursive Writing program that contains fourteen lessons of instruction. The program covers the lower- and upper-case alphabets and, with the accompanying cursive Activity Book (blackline master, included) provides students with many opportunities to work toward and achieve legible and fluid cursive penmanship.

Cursive Writing Lessons can be found:

- **Grade 2:** Skills Unit 1 Teacher Guide
- **Grade 3:** Unit 1 Teacher Guide
- **Grades 4 and 5:** Cursive Instruction supplement

All grade levels include a blackline master of the Student Activity Book where the activity pages can be printed out or copied. Activity pages provide practice opportunities that can be done in class or at home.

## Implementation

To implement the Cursive Writing lesson, schedule 15-20 minutes of extra time each day in addition to the core instructional lesson time.

The writing lessons begin during Unit 1 of each grade. It is highly recommended that the lessons begin no earlier than the third week of the unit. In that way, the first week of school is dedicated to back-to-school and learning any new routines in the core program. The second week of school includes important Beginning-of-the-Year placement assessments in Grades 2 and 3.

The instructional procedure is as follows:

- Begin cursive writing instruction in Week 3 of Unit 1.
- Do all fourteen lessons in order.
- Do one lesson per day for 15-20 minutes (outside core instruction).

Implementation Options

| Lesson Frequency | Lesson Duration | Lesson Practice | Extended Practice |
|---|---|---|---|
| One cursive lesson per day | 15-20 minutes | Assign pages from Cursive Activity Book for practice at school or at home. | Find other times during the week to integrate cursive practice<br>• writing assignments from core<br>• cursive writing journal |
| Two or three cursive lessons per week | 15-20 minutes | Assign pages from the Cursive Activity Book for practice on alternate days or at home. | Find other times during the week to integrate cursive practice<br>• writing assignments from core<br>• cursive writing journal |

## Practice

After the initial fourteen lessons, continue to have students practice cursive writing throughout the year:

- Use the Activity Pages in the Activity Book. These can be done in class or at home.

- Identify writing assignments in the core program that can be completed using cursive writing such as spelling activities, writing prompts, or responses to text.

- For formal writing assignments using the writing process, require that students publish their work using cursive writing.

- Provide notebooks with lined paper dedicated to cursive writing practice. Students can practice during different times of the day such as when an assignment is completed early or when there is transitional time between activities or subjects.

- Provide less conventional ways for students to practice such as on chart paper, white boards, or using sensory materials such as tracing the letters in rice, sand, or shaving cream on a flat surface.

## Assessment

Schedule regular check-ins during the year to see how students are progressing.

- **Self-Assessment:** have students look over their practice letters and sentences and draw a circle around the one they feel is their best example. Have the students explain why they think that is their best example (e.g. letter formation, letter spacing, placement on line, letter connection, etc.).

- **Peer Assessment:** Have students exchange papers and choose the best example of cursive writing (letter or word) and put a star by it. Then have students share with each other why they chose that example.

- **Teacher Assessment:** Identify which cursive writing assignments will be used to assess students' progress. Other writing assignments from the core program may also be used to assess cursive writing. Evaluate the writing and provide timely feedback and support in the following areas:

  - **Letter formation:** letters are formed correctly
  - **Letter spacing:** letters are correctly and consistently spaced according to the shape of the letters
  - **Word spacing:** the space between words in a sentence is appropriate
  - **Line quality:** lines (strokes) should be consistent and smooth
  - **Slant:** cursive letters should curve slightly to the right
  - **Letter connections:** letters are joined together properly in words