

What are printing lines?

- Printing lines are visual boundaries to help place letters and numbers.

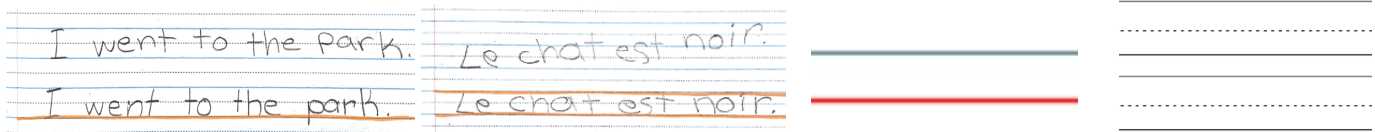
Why are printing lines important?

- To help improve printing
- To reduce confusion and help with sizing and organization of printing
- To help at different stages of printing development

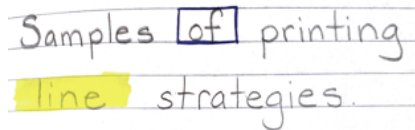
The following strategies can help improve written work:

Printing along a line: when children can form letters, have them start printing on lines.

- Use larger spaced printing lines (primary sizing of approximately 1 inch) and darken the baseline with a bold colour.
- Use a bold top line if the child's letters float up to higher printing lines.



- Try a highlight or box around the printing space for single-word entries.



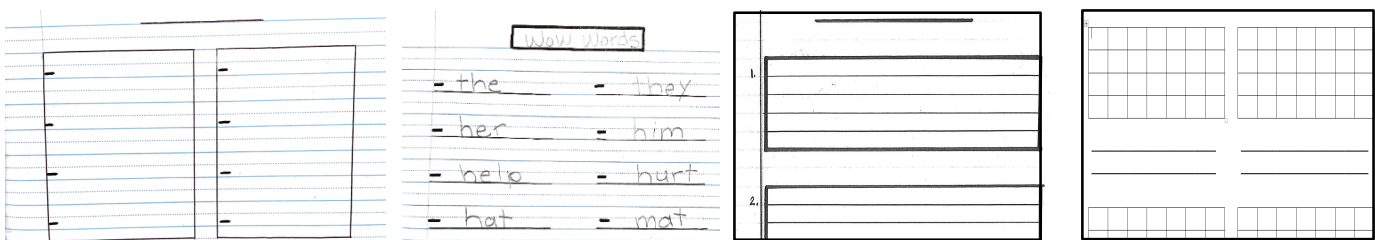
Aligning letters: when children can print on a line, help them start aligning their letters.

- Try different strategies for letter alignment: *Tall, Short and Hanging letters; Giraffe, Snail and Monkey letters; Sky, Fence and Grass letters;* etc.
- Define the lower half of the space to provide visual cues for letter alignment. This can be a dotted line, a highlight, boxes for each letter or solid lines, depending on the paper you are using.



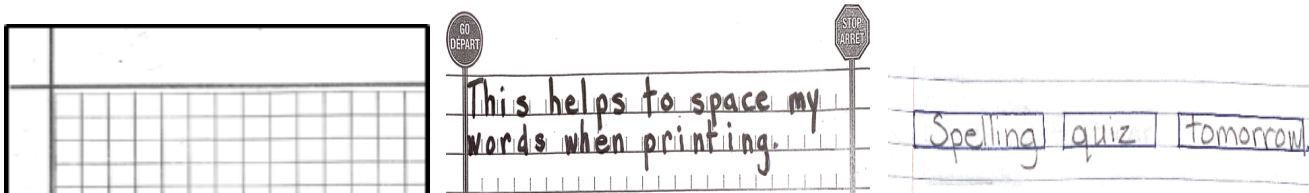
Organizing the page: use visual cues to help children learn how to organize their page.

- Use bold margins, hash marks (number signs), large boxes for each question or graph paper to help organize work.

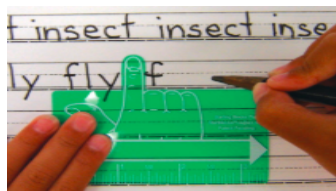


Spacing letters and words: help children who have difficulty with spacing between letters and words.

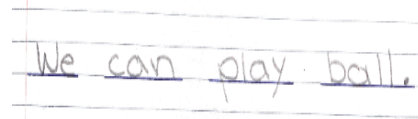
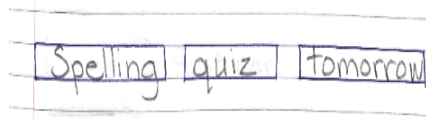
- Use graph paper, Hilroy hash paper or boxes for each word to improve spacing.



- Use a finger, a spacer ruler or a popsicle stick to help spacing between words.



- Try boxes, lines or a highlight for each word when more structure is needed for spacing between words.



Changing the task or desk setup: try modifications for children with difficulty copying from the board.

- Seat the child close to and facing the board so they do not need to look far or turn around.
- Provide a copy of the board work at their desk.
- Print examples for children on the same style lines.

