

WHAT IS A TYPICAL CLASS LIKE?

- 5 minutes of large motor work - tracing giant sized letters while emphasizing the First Stroke of the letter
- 15 minutes of medium motor work in FUN multi-sensory mediums such as Exploding paint, shaving cream, punch writing, with good touchpoints on the writing lines
- 10 minutes of workbook practice
- Zany craft activity for the letter of the day, with more practice of letters/words/sentences on handwriting paper or unlined paper
- Motor Gym work on visual memory of the letters of the day. For example, writing the letters in the air with eyes closed, then jumping in our letter pit or riding down a scooter board ramp.
- Multi-sensory work on reversal techniques
- Last 5 minutes of class is always show and tell and parent training!

The Handwriting Clinic

WHAM CLASS!
(WRITING, HANDWRITING and MATH LEGIBILITY CLASS)

OLDER KIDS CLASS

2nd - 5th graders

WHAM CLASS

- Learn and practice consistent sizing on notebook paper
- Generalize sizing to handwriting
- Improve legibility
- Zany Writing Topic
- Eliminate reversals

**1506 Capital St, Ste. 150
Plano, Texas 75074
972 633-1974**

WHAM CLASS

WHAM Class - Writing, Handwriting and Math Legibility - (PRINT) Print legibility class for older kids - 2nd through 4th, 5th - 7th, and teens. Work on print legibility techniques, cool writing projects on. LOTS of CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS - learn about putting voice into writing.
8 sessions See main school year or summer camp brochure, website, or call for current pricing and schedule.

We use the First Strokes® curriculum! See www.FirstStrokesHandwriting.com for more information.

Legibility Techniques Learned in Class:

Math/Numbers:

- No poor closure
- No hyperclosure
- Make numbers touch the writing line (not floating or sinking below)
- Make numbers ½ space on notebook paper
- Make numbers a consistent size
- Make numbers “touch the wall” so they are shaped more like a box

Handwriting Legibility:

- Body of letter is 1/3 space
- Tall letters touch the top line
- Sinking letters go well below the writing line

Handwriting Errors: Try not to make these errors!

- Poor closure
- Hyper-closure
- Teepees
- Lakes
- Retracing Errors

GENERALIZE THESE SKILLS TO NOTEBOOK PAPER, FILL IN THE BLANK WORKSHEETS, MATH WORKSHEETS



Zany Writing Topics like exploding playdough creatures, jello alien monsters, etc make writing topics fun. We also do some fun science experiments - but of course the kids have to write about their activities using all the techniques they have learned for good legibility!



Call 972 633-1974 to schedule. Classes fill quickly so call early!
www.TheHandwritingClinic.com www.FirstStrokesHandwriting.com

2nd graders: Parents have a choice between the SM Print class or the WHAM Class. 3rd - 5th graders should take the WHAM class.

The differences are below:

| | Sensory Motor Print Class - 8 hours plus book \$290 (1st/2nd graders 1:5 ratio) | WHAM Class - 8 hours plus book \$290 (2nd - 5th graders 1:5 ratio) |
|---|---|---|
| First Strokes Multi-sensory Print Program | Yes, students go BACK through letter formation using a multi-sensory handwriting program. They work on reversal techniques, sizing, letter formation and sequencing. | Students use the One Hour to Legibility Workbook. They do NOT go back through letter formation, or through a multisensory handwriting program. They DO work multisensory on sizing letters through fun medium motor activities but not on general sequencing of letters. |
| Work on sizing of letters on notebook paper | Yes, the 2nd graders generalize to CR paper, which looks exactly like notebook paper, but has a middle divider 1/3 space. They use this paper for homework, and for Zany Writing Topics | Yes, but 90 percent of the work is geared to sizing of letters and numbers on the CR paper x 4 sessions, then generalizing to notebook paper, fill in the blank worksheets, etc. |
| Work on grasp development | No, we will encourage what the kids learned in grasp class, but there is no time to teach new skills on grasp development in this class. We refer kids to grasp class if needed. | No, we will encourage what the kids learned in grasp class, but there is no time to teach new skills on grasp development in this class. We refer kids to grasp class if needed |
| Fun Zany Writing Topics | Yes, the students compose sentences and paragraphs about their fun zany writing topic (jello aliens, shaving cream monsters, alien eyeballs, etc). They spend a lot of time writing about their topic, on CR paper and then notebook paper. | Yes, the students compose sentences and paragraphs about their fun zany writing topic (jello aliens, shaving cream monsters, alien eyeballs, etc). They spend a lot of time writing about their topic, on CR paper and then notebook paper. |
| Best overall guess: | If your 2nd grader struggles with remembering how to write letters, struggles with reversals and is frustrated with handwriting, this class is best. | WHAM class is good your 2nd grader mostly has really poor handwriting, and if the letters are an inconsistent size - ex. the tall letters are about the same size as the body of the letters, or the sinking letters do not sink below the lines. If sizing is the primary problem, the WHAM class is good. Also, if you child has speedy handwriting with poor legibility, the WHAM class is a good class. Older students - sometime between 2nd and 3rd grade, usually develop some impulsive habits in handwriting - and write so fast that their handwriting legibility looks poor. WHAM class is perfect for these students too. |

If you are in doubt as to which class, you can:

1. Fax in handwriting samples to 214 291 5435
2. Make an appointment for an assessment. The “assessment” is also a 1:1 training session plus a consultation with the parent. So, instead of just being “assessed”, your child would also get a head start on legibility. Jan McCleskey, MA, OTR, is the clinical director, and she does all the assessments for the clinic
3. Call the clinic - usually the office staff can help you decide which class is best.

My student sequences letters bottom to top, and in funny ways!

We know what we are good at, and we know what we are not good at! We can usually change legibility dramatically, and make handwriting easier for the student. But, for students older than first grade, we have minimal luck changing the sequencing of letters. Many students learn at an early age or in Kindergarten to write letters bottom to top, in multi-steps, or with clockwise sequencing of circle strokes. It is sad to see older students with sequencing problems, and we wish we could change this. But what we find is that the students can change it while we are working with them, but they just cannot change it when they have to write in class. It has nothing to do with how motivated the child is - it is simply bad habits. We have had extremely gifted children try hard to change sequencing of letters. We have done follow ups with children. But, in almost all cases, we cannot change the bad habits that the child has practiced for years. We can change sequencing of letters very easily in preschoolers and Kindergarteners, and sometimes in first grade. If this is a problem for your child, you may be amazed to know that legibility can be dramatically different with the skills we do teach, but for 2nd grade and above, we do not try to change sequencing. That said, we sometimes can change the sequencing in 2 or 3 letters. For example, sometimes the letter "a" is so illegible due to sequencing, that we can focus on that one letter, and also have the parent work on a home program for that one letter.

We DO know that we can often have a dramatic change in legibility of handwriting with the older students.

**LOOK AT THE EXAMPLES ON THE NEXT PAGE -
LEGIBILITY CAN CHANGE!!**

BEFORE AND AFTER SAMPLES

June 19 – 28, 2006

1 hour/day Monday – Thursday for 2 weeks

B = before

A = after

On Friday a boy went to math class and his teacher assigned a
assignment.

B

Wham
After

A

One day a boy went to math class and his teacher assigned a

One day a boy went to math class and his teacher assigned a hundred math problems! His teacher also said that the class would not have recess that day. When the lunch bell rang the teacher told the class to finish their papers first. Just then, the principal

B

One day a boy went to math class and his teacher assigned a hundred homework problems! His teacher also said th

A

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Can Older Students and Teens Change Handwriting?

Yes! In fact, older students and adults can usually change their handwriting after only an hour or two of instruction, but then they need to practice! There are legibility problems that develop when speed handwriting develops somewhere around age 10. The brain is faster than the hand! As students write, their hand is on the letter they are forming but their brain is several words or sentences away! The student begins to do poor closure of letters and several other handwriting errors, to “shortcut the letter” in order to have better speed! Many parents and teachers will tell a child to “use better handwriting”. However, a child really does not know the techniques to “use better handwriting!”. By teaching the child some common handwriting errors and working on sizing of letters, poor legibility can be changed rapidly! We have a WHAM class for older print legibility for 2nd -5th graders, and we usually devote 2 private sessions to students or adults 6th grade and above, to change legibility!

We also sell the One Hour to Legibility Program to school districts nationwide. This program teaches many of the legibility techniques that we use in the clinic.

Products available from:

www.FirstStrokesHandwriting.com