

The
Handwriting
Clinic

**FALL OR SPRING
PRESCHOOL
HANDWRITING
CLASSES!**

BROCHURE

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WHAT AGE IS BEST FOR WORKING ON HANDWRITING?

THE BEST AGE TO START WORKING WITH KIDS IS BEFORE THEY START KINDERGARTEN!!!

Developmentally, children should have all the fine and visual motor skills by age 6, to learn handwriting. Most adults began handwriting training around age 6. Of course, children learn handwriting in preschool now days, and should have handwriting down before Kindergarten. It is especially hard on many boys, who would rather be out riding their bike, than inside coloring and practicing letters! That is why we have multisensory handwriting lessons and even a gym, to learn handwriting! We can teach the top to bottom patterning, and counterclockwise circle strokes for the circle letters (o, a, d, g, q, c). We do fun art projects for the phonic sounds. The kids developmentally work on age level fine motor skills to specifically develop a refine grasp pattern on a pencil. Gifted children who write early, have funky grips, that can get locked in before Kindergarten. Many other children have poor fine motor skills, joint laxity the hand, and poor hand strength, due to a variety of reasons. It is easy to improve fine motor skills at a young age, before bad habits develop.

We often hear parents ask us about gifted children. They usually have some of the worst handwriting! This is because their visual motor skills develop early on to where they can copy letters, but not necessarily in the correct sequence of letter formation. This leads to huge problems later on, because their pattern of letter formation becomes habit, and then difficult to change. We see countless numbers of first graders who have unbelievably different approaches to letter formation (bottom to top, clockwise circles, and sometimes even extra motions to make the letters. We cannot change letter formation habits from the middle of First Grade. That is why it is so important to see children early—especially if a child is precocious, or if a child just needs some encouragement in FUN ways to work on fine motor and handwriting skills. We have wonderful preschool classes that start in the Fall or in January. During the summer, we do not work on handwriting with this age group, but we do have some fine motor camps for this age - as our summer camps are only 2 weeks. We need to see preschoolers over a 3 month period for handwriting - this allows us to see them develop over time. We always do parent training at the end of each class so that parents can work at home with their child! This is way more fun that copying letters in handwriting books - our preschool classes are a blast - even for those children who do not like to color or practice letters!

If I could fill up the clinic with only ONE class, it would be the Fall/Spring preschool classes - they are FUN, and the kids make huge strides in readiness skills for Kindergarten. Those that take the Fall classes are eligible for an Advanced class in the Spring!



Maintaining “go” fingers on balance beam



Fine Motor Lab - we use “go” fingers



After writing the letter of the day in the air, I get a scooter board ride!

WHAT IS A TYPICAL CLASS LIKE?

- 5 minutes of large motor work - tracing giant sized letters while emphasizing the First Stroke of the letter
- 10 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
- 5 minutes of workbook practice
- Zany craft activity for the letter of the day, with more practice of the letters on handwriting paper or unlined paper
- Rotation through fine motor labs
- 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.
- Motor Gym work on fine motor skills. Ex. Using “go fingers” to carry objects with tweezers across a balance beam or relay races to bear walk to a wall to fill in circles on a sheet of paper using a correct grasp on a pencil.
- Last 5 minutes of class is always show and tell and parent training!

We can do parent training to set up a home program for fine motor skills! If your child is enrolled in one of our classes, we would love to have you attend one of our parent training sessions. You will receive a mini kit to start working on skills at home! Cost is \$90 for an hour training session (individual). We frequently do group training sessions for a reduced price. Call our office manager to schedule.

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PRESCHOOL CLASSES: The is the BEST age to work on readiness skills - BEFORE kindergarten!

Preschool Power Finger Gymnastics Class - Fine Motor Class

NEW! Preschool Power Finger Gymnastics Class (3 - 5 yrs) - Super fine motor readiness class for beginning learning of stroke development using multi-sensory activities! Students work on grasp development, eye-hand coordination, coloring, scissors skills, fine motor control and strengthening skills. Multi-sensory, gross motor learning of letter formation! 4-5 children/class. Grasp/fine motor labs. A fine motor report card will be performed at the beginning/end of this session. A mini-fine motor kit for home will be provided.

\$299 8 sessions



Scribbles to Shapes - Visual Motor/Drawing Class

NEW! Visual Motor Readiness Class (4 - 6 yrs)

- This class works on visual motor readiness - a big part of Kindergarten testing! Students will work on drawing shapes, scenes, draw a person, animals, and emotions, while continuing to refine grasp development. Students will begin to learn to draw through many awesome art projects (even suitable for framing!), Common Kindergarten testing items and skills, are for students to learn to draw a person (with a neck, all facial features, etc), draw shapes, animals, objects and be able to draw pictures to represent ideas, actions and stories. Students must be able to focus, attend and benefit in a small group class. **8 sessions** See main brochure, website, or call for current pricing.

Sensory Motor ABC Class I - Multisensory Handwriting Class - Lower Case (FALL/SPRING ONLY - REGISTRATION BEGINS IN JULY FOR FALL!!!)

Sensory-Motor ABC Class (4 - 5 yrs)- Multi-sensory class to actively learn lower case letter formation using multi-sensory activities. This class introduces the concept of lined paper, although the emphasis of this class is correct letter formation and grasp development through fun, exploratory multi-sensory activities. Class continues to work on fine motor readiness for Kindergarten through grasp and fine motor labs. 4-5 children per class Students will work on letter formation through large motor (ex. in our gym on giant handwriting lines), medium motor (ex. with fizzing paint/qtip on 4 inch handwriting lines, and small motor (workbook and handwriting paper). We have a gym where students will work on visual memory and letter recognition skills in fun games. For example, they can write the letters of the day in the air, then jump into our foam pillows from a platform. There is always a zany writing topic, for example, a shaving cream puff monster. Students will then write either the letter of the day or practice writing words about the craft. We have the COOLEST projects.. Parent training at the end of every class, to go over homework and set a home program for working on sequencing of letters. **12 sessions. See main brochure, website, or call for current pricing**

Advanced Sensory Motor ABC Class II - Multisensory Handwriting Class - Upper Case with Lower Case Review

Advanced Sensory Motor ABC Lab - The student will work individually on upper case letters, going over several letters a day within stroke groups. This lab will be enhance with a multisensory computer program, that goes over phonics, letter recognition and stroke formation for upper case letters, followed by multi-sensory work on visual memory and handwriting practice, in our gym. The student will also review the lower case letters, and then do a zany writing craft to work on lower case review. Pre-requisite - Sensory Motor ABC Class I **8 sessions. See main brochure, website, or call for current pricing.**



PRESCHOOL CLASSES - CONTINUED

We start our registration for Fall Sensory Motor ABC and Finger Gymnastics camps for 3 - 5 year old preschoolers in JULY. Please register early - these camps fill quickly! (And this is the BEST time to get Students, especially before the Kindergarten year! Enrollment for these camps start in July, for Fall Classes! Register early!!! We have a Preschool Power camp for fine motor skills during the summer. During the summer, our Preschool Power camp is designed to get kids some intense work on fine motor skills/grasp development. Kids receive a pencil gymnastics kit, a jump start on fine motor development, and parents receive training and help in starting home activities for fine motor development through the developing years! We do begin "patterning" of letters in the Preschool Power camp. But during the Fall/Spring, we take young students through multi-sensory programming for handwriting. Please refer to separate brochure for these camps, which are never offered in the summer. To work with young students, we need to see them 3 months for 1 hour per week, to have the time to watch their fine motor skills develop and for them to get good visual memory of letter formation, which is why we only offer these more intense handwriting classes in the Fall/Spring. If we could only offer one camp at our clinic, the Fall/Spring preschool camps are the best camp, at the best timing, to help students with readiness BEFORE bad habits develop!!!

Registration starts in JULY for Fall Sensory Motor ABC/Finger Gym Classes:

PARENT TRAINING SESSION: \$50 - For students who need work on fine motor skills, we encourage all preschool parents to come to a group parent training session to set up a home program for fine motor skills using creative, fun multisensory activities. Parents must have enrolled their child to attend a class, or private therapy, in order to attend. We schedule these often - and highly recommend the training. We talk about fine motor skills for tongs labs, scissors labs, and coloring labs - to set up home programs. Parents get a Sea Animal Fine Motor Kit (a \$34.95 value), and many handouts and activities! \$50 All sessions are with Jan, the owner of the clinic.

WHY DO WE NOT HAVE SUMMER HANDWRITING CAMPS FOR LETTER FORMATION FOR PRESCHOOLERS?

Due to parents busy schedules all our camps are 2 weeks long (M - TH) during the summer. It is important to see young preschoolers over time, to work on fine motor skills and handwriting. We have found that for the young kids, it is best for them to come once a week with a home program in between to practice the letters and review the letters through multisensory activities. This allows the hand and fine motor skills to develop, and allows the students to absorb the information well. We encourage all preschoolers to enroll in our Fall SM ABC class!

WHAT SKILLS SHOULD MY CHILD HAVE BEFORE KINDERGARTEN?

Kindergarten is fast paced and requires much more of children than when their parents were in Kindergarten. Ideally, it would be beneficial if the child can copy all upper and lower case letters IN THE CORRECT SEQUENCE, within the handwriting lines prior to their first day of Kindergarten. Children should also be able to write their name (first letter a capital letter, others lower case), draw people with eyes, nose, mouth, eyebrows, ears, hair, neck, body, arms, legs, hands and feet, draw animals, draw shapes - circle, square, triangle, use a correct grasp with a DYNAMIC grasp (not static), color within a border and change colors when coloring pictures, use scissors to cut out objects and angled lines, have a hand dominance, draw objects to represent ideas, have dynamic fine motor skills with good separation of the thumb side of the hand from the 4th and 5th fingers when using tongs or writing instruments, and be confident in learning. Many of our children would much rather be out riding their bikes or playing with blocks than to sit and do coloring and handwriting - which is why we do so many multisensory activities and work in our gym to enhance skills. We do patterning of letters, fine motor games, fine motor obstacle courses, and many fun activities in our gym. Overall, we are a very researched based facility, where we have experts in the field teaching our classes - all staff have Masters degrees to instruct at the clinic. Most of all, we have a very Positive learning atmosphere where students have FUN while working on much needed Kindergarten readiness skills!