

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.

[Albert Einstein](#)

Thera *kids*

**ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EDUCATORS
AND PLANTING THE SEEDS OF CLASSROOM WELLNESS.**

WHY CURSIVE HANDWRITING IS IMPORTANT IN THE CLASSROOM

Cursive handwriting becomes particularly important as children enter the third grade. Developmentally, there is a tremendous difference between third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Within just one school year, children make great strides in motor and cognitive development and in all academic areas. Handwriting instruction should reflect this progression.

Cognitive Development and Cursive Progression

Grade 3: Children should be ready to transition to cursive and can start using it in day-to-day assignments. However, they may tend to grasp their pencils too tightly and benefit from practice with fine motor tools. At this stage, they are developing dictionary skills and are interested in learning about their country, foreign countries, things that happened in the past and literary characters.

Grade 4: By this stage, students' large muscles are developing quickly. Because they are integrating many new skills, they tend to write more sloppily than in the previous grade. Students are also more likely to be reading voraciously and memorizing more difficult spelling words. Their thinking is increasingly more abstract and they are ready to write lengthier compositions, including poetry, research papers, and pieces about famous people. In addition, they have developed greater fluency in cursive.

Grade 5: By this time, student writing, cognitive and motor skills are far more advanced than they were the prior year. Students are more adept at abstract thinking. They would rather learn new skills than review or improve previous work. They can spell with ease and often enjoy practicing writing, poetry, cartooning, and journaling. However, there are many students whose handwriting is not on par with their other abilities. Yet, they still need to practice in a challenging and entertaining way that is appropriate for their level.

"Frog Jump Gazette." Handwriting Without Tears, Jan, 2012. Web. 30 Jul 2012.

Therakids P.C. provides specialized occupational, physical and speech Services are provided in the school setting throughout southwest assistants, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and speech-l

Top 5 reasons why cursive handwriting is important

It builds the brain. Cursive helps develop cognitive abilities, which are the "brain-based skills" needed to carry out tasks. In fact, learning cursive improves a child's fluency, ensuring a "secure neural network".

Cursive is the fastest, easiest way for upper elementary students to put their thoughts on paper. Cursive is faster than printing, and greater writing speed allows writers to write better by lessening the burden on working memory.

Communicating their thoughts depends on it! If teachers cannot read a child's writing on homework and tests, they cannot properly grade their work, and if students cannot read their own notes, they cannot use them. The more fluid and automatic a student's handwriting is, the more time he/she will have to concentrate on content of writing.

Fluent, legible handwriting boosts grades and test scores. Teachers have indicated that difficulty with handwriting results in lower grades on written assignments, has a negative effect on the quantity and quality of students' writing, and influences how long students take to complete written assignments

Kids need it later in school and as adults. Handwriting is especially important for note taking in middle and high school, SAT tests, and bar exams. For adults, a recent Monster.com search reveals that positions in security systems, healthcare and engineering, as well as childcare providers, writers and utility workers, require legible handwriting in their job descriptions, underscoring the ongoing value of handwriting in the workplace and the importance of the skill for lifelong success.

"HWT Connections." Handwriting Without Tears, March, 2011. Web. 30 Jul 2012.

<http://www.hwtears.com/hwtconnections/2011/march/handwriting>

<http://www.hwtears.com/hwtconnections/2011/november/feature>

<http://www.hwtears.com/newsletter/may2011/betweenlines>

<http://www.hwtears.com/newsletter/january2012/betweenlines>

ental concerns.
ational therapy

