

Tips for Lefties

This world is made for righties! Notebooks and binders are designed for right handed students. The rings of a binder or spiral of a notebook are all on the left side of the book. The left handed writer must learn to navigate around and through these obstacles.

General Strategies/Things to Consider:

1. Paper position is imperative for lefties to ensure proper mechanics, wrist position, and clear visual field. See *Getting to Write* handout earlier in binder.
2. Teach left handed writers to place their paper to the left of their body. This will help them to see what they are writing. When they finish writing across an entire line, their hand should either be slightly to the left of their midline or just in front of it. This allows them to move more naturally as they keep their wrist straight (rather than hooked), minimize smudging while writing, and see what they are writing.
3. Provide lefties the model letter/word above or to the right of writing line so they can actually see it. Since most worksheets place the model on the left side of the paper, you may need to provide an additional model than is pre-printed.
4. Letter formation is generally the same for lefties as it is for righties. Be sure to teach your child to write the letter "o" in the same direction as righties, which is in the counter-clockwise direction. This will help him with his overall speed and fluency of writing later on down the road. **The only real difference in formation is that lefties can "pull" their little lines backward to cross their letters (like for lowercase "f" and "t" and for capital "A" "E" "F" "H" "J" "T") by going from right to left rather than "pushing" from left to right.**
5. Have your lefties sit to on the left side of other students in seating chart or group, so she doesn't bump elbows with her neighbor.
6. Allow lefties to tear papers out of workbooks, spirals before they start writing. This way they can avoid the binding or spiral which gets in their way.