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HANDWRITING AND MARGINS!

NEWSLETTER

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HANDWRITING AND MARGINS!

Handwriting is an important part of your child's academic success. Legibility being one of the most important factors! But there are various reasons why one's legibility of writing can be different than that of another.

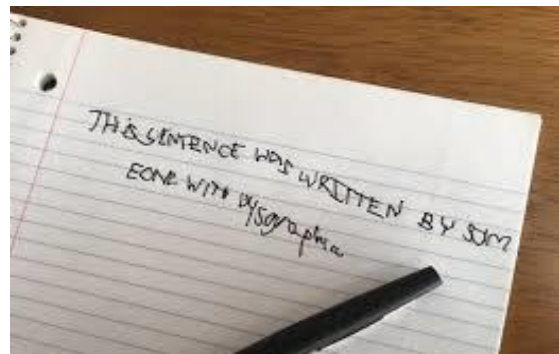
Today we will talk about writing that moves away from the margins!!

You've probably seen this before. A child is writing a letter or an essay on a piece of paper and each line of the paragraph gradually moves toward the center of the page. The margins in their handwriting are just all over the place! By the end of the passage, the left margin is half way across the page. You might see them start halfway across the page and try to squash letters in by the time they get to the right side of the page. It's hard to read the written work for others as well as the child. Most children are not even aware that they are writing like this.

Although, when children write in this manner, the problem is most likely with their spatial awareness and page orientation.

Spatial awareness is the ability to perceive the world around one's self and position themselves or objects accordingly. Awareness of space relates a lot to the proprioceptive and vestibular systems as well as the visual system. Decreased spatial awareness may be because of number of reasons:

- Body awareness challenges: understanding where their body is with respect to self and surrounding
- Visual-vestibular processing difficulties: understanding spatial concepts in relation to directionality and movement
- Visual Perceptual deficits: challenges with spatial orientation, i.e. understanding spatial concepts of left, right, top, bottom, over, under, etc.



In my life I want to become a air force Pilot. First I want to go in National Defence Academy. I want to become a man waf guner. I want to do some thing for the nation for. In my life there should be strong reason to live. I should come constructive work in my life.
Whatever I will do, I will not go into the abroad. I will stay in India.
to improve nation I can do everything.
My dream is to see other countries are watching India from respect and all economical problems should solve. #dream countries concept should be in reality.

A child who demonstrates poor spatial awareness, most likely shows some variances of difficulty with gross motor movement, understanding directions, abstract concepts, and language. Spatial relations can also impact other functional skills, placement of objects or the child's body parts in relation to other objects, other people, or in movement. This can be seen as poor coordination, poor balance, poor self-awareness, poor self-confidence, and even impaired social emotional relations.

All of these challenges carryover to handwriting, and impact not just your child's ability to **write from the margin**, but many aspects of handwriting such as letter formations, appropriate spaces between words or letters of a word, consistency in sizing of the letters, placement of the letter/words correctly on the line, and orientation of the letters correctly to write with adequate neatness and legibility.

Some tips to help improve your child's spatial awareness and specifically help with writing from the margin are;

- Consult your occupational therapist to provide you with a sensory diet rich in proprioceptive, vestibular and visual vestibular input. It can involve games like animal walks, jungle gyms, obstacle course, dodge-ball, dog and bone, balloon volleyball, etc.
- One quick tip is to use a highlighted left margin. This is a great visual cue for those children whose writing drifts over to the middle of the page as they write
- Place a thin piece of tape along the left margin. This can serve as a visual and physical cue as the place to start writing. It's a visual anchor that helps with visual scanning.
- Place small green dots on each line along the left margin. These are the "green lights" so child knows where to start writing. Place small red dots on each line along the right margin. These are "red lights" so child know where to stop writing
- Use stickers placed along the right margin of the page as a cue that they are nearing the edge of paper when writing
- Draw boxes for words on worksheets for them to write within

Handwriting is a crucial part of your child's life. Challenges with writing can make it extremely frustrating for your child. It is essential that you intervene for the same so that they can smoothly enjoy participation in written tasks at school and at home.



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For any question or concerns regarding the newsletter please write to us on: reachtcf@gmail.com

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