



Search for:

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Signature Writing for a Braille Reader

November 18th, 2010 by Jodi Floyd



For children who read braille, one handwriting skill that needs to be taught is the child's signature. This skill is usually started in second or third grade when the other children usually begin to learn cursive writing. A braille reader's signature is always written in cursive because it eliminates the need for starting and stopping points. It's continuous and students don't have to pick up the pen or pencil to find the top. Also, it's the way adults are asked to sign documents.

The time to teach a specific letter is when those letters are used in conversation to reference ideas or concepts such U shaped curve, S shaped curve, T intersection, Y intersection, or L shaped route. These letters don't need to be taught specifically, but just as the concept is introduced so that the child understands what you're talking about.

Materials needed

- Signature guide

- Letter writing guide
- Raised line drawing kit available from Maxi-Aids

Teaching Technique

There are many ways to teach a student's signature, but this one example of how a teacher may teach handwriting to a student for the first time.

1. Decide what the child is going to write as their signature — you may wish to have this discussion with the child's parents. Remember, not everyone writes every single letter of their name when they sign their signature. Some people only write their first initial and last name. Others write their first and last name with their middle initial. Still others write their signature with a letter followed by a line. Their signature doesn't need to be perfect, just consistent.
2. At first, practice writing the student's signature without using a signature guide. The space within a signature guide is very limited and many children need to make exaggerated movements to understand the concept of "short line to the right."
3. Have the students write square or rounded letters. For example the letter J might be line down, and to the left or short line to the left then a line going straight up.
4. Begin by having the student trace their name from start to finish. Say the letters and the directions for writing each letter as you write the letter. To teach you can go hand under hand or square the letters such as go up, then right, then down.
5. Talk about connectors so that the child does not put their letters on top of one another.
6. Have the student practice using the Raised Line Drawing Kit as lines that are drawn become raised and easily traced. The child's signature becomes easily followed by touch.
7. Once the child understands the directions for writing his or her signature, use a letter writing guide over the raised line drawing kit. This will begin to confine the student's signature from top to bottom but still give the student room to spread out to the right or left. This will also provide the student with a firm beginning and ending point as they begin to refine their signature. The letter writing guide also allows them to use the entire page to practice their signature without having to move the signature guide to a new location.
8. Once you feel that the student is ready, move them to a signature guide.
9. In order to develop consistency, it is important to provide extra practice. So have the student use the signature guide on a daily basis. By carrying around the signature guide, the student will be able to sign their name at any time.

Commercially Available Products

There are commercially available products that can aid with teaching handwriting to students with visual impairments. Below are just a few of these products.

- Teaching Signature Writing to Those who are Visually Impaired available from [Exceptional Teaching Aids](#). Dr. Sally Mangold demonstrates a creative teaching method that helps young students as well as adults make a legal signature. Practical teaching tips

are interspersed throughout this 35-minute DVD. The book includes exercises, a sample lesson plan, and sample signatures.

- Freund Longhand Writing Kit available from [American Printing House for the Blind](#). This kit helps students learn cursive writing. It includes an embossed workbook, a Tactile Marking Mat (also available separately), a pad of 100 sheets of embossed-line paper for use with the Marking Mat, and a manual in both regular print and braille.

About the author

Jodi Floyd



Jodi Floyd is a teacher of students with visual impairment as well as the President of the SC Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.



Unless otherwise noted,
All content is released under a
Creative Commons License.

BrailleSC.org was made possible in part by grant award #H235E090010 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, and by a Start-Up Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Office of Digital Humanities. The opinions and content of the BrailleSC.org website are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the funding agencies.