

Forward Chaining Method for Name Writing

This method of teaching name writing uses a process called forward chaining. Depending on the child’s experience with braille, instruction may start with the capital sign and the first character (letter or contraction) of their first name or with the part of the name they do not yet know how to write. If the child writes their whole first name correctly, use the same process to teach the last name.

The chart below outlines the steps in the forward chaining process using the name Asher. In this example, Asher has already learned to write the capital sign and the first letter of his name.

Name Writing Sequence With Forward Chaining Steps

Step	Example: Asher
Ask the child to braille as much of his name as he can write consistently and correctly several times.	.• .• .• ... A A A (capital A)
Teach the next character (letter or contraction) in isolation with spaces after each character.	∴ ∴ ∴ (sh) (sh) (sh) ...
When the child can write the new character in isolation, have him practice writing his name up to and including the newly learned character.	.• ∴ .• ∴ .• ∴ A(sh) A(sh) A(sh) ...
When the child has mastered the new sequence, continue to teach the remaining characters in his name one at a time, first in isolation and then added to the characters he already knows, until he can write his whole name independently, accurately, and consistently.	.• ∴ ∴ .• ∴ ∴ A(sh)(er) A(sh)(er) ...

Each step of the forward chaining process may take multiple days or even weeks. During this time, the child brailles only the portion of his name that he has mastered when writing his name in any context throughout the day.

General Directions:

- Have the child write as much of their name as they know so far.
- If they make errors, continue practicing the current sequence.
- Once the child has mastered the current letters, teach the next shape in isolation with spaces after each cell. Use the APH Swing Cell as needed to teach new letters and/or contractions.
- When they can write the new shape in isolation, add it to the previous letters so that their partial name is increased by one cell.
- The child should practice daily. Continue adding cells one at a time until their whole name, first and last, is mastered.

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