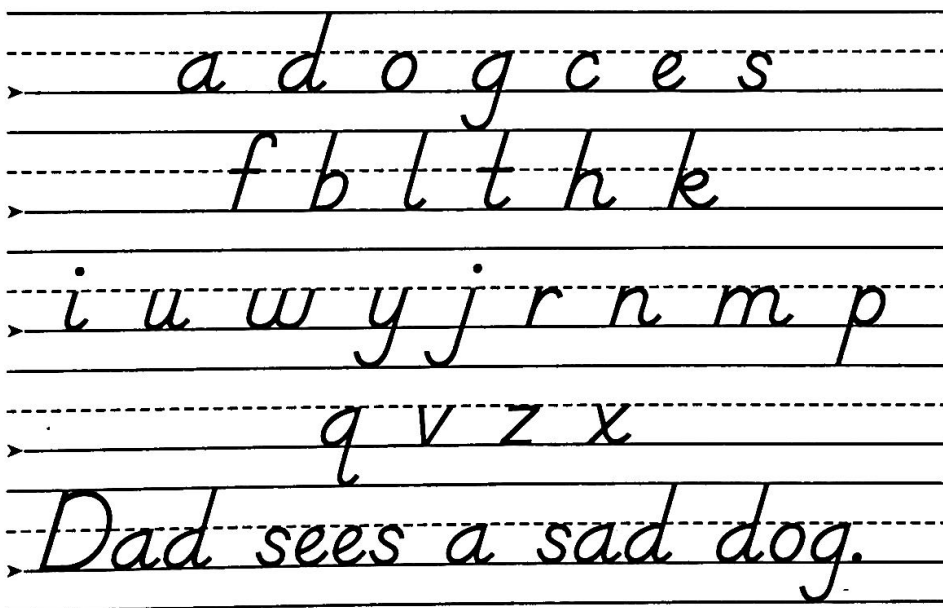


Q In what order should letters be taught?

A The D'Nealian method introduces letters according to the way they are made. This means that children learn to write letters that require similar strokes with their pencils. For example, the lower-case letters **a, d, o,** and **g** all begin with the same stroke: middle start, around down. The lower-case letters **c, e,** and **s** begin below the middle line, but each uses the "around down" stroke. The lower-case letters **f, b, l, t, h,** and **k** all start at the top or a bit below the top and slant down. The lower-case manuscript alphabet is easy to write because each letter is formed with one continuous stroke. Children get into the rhythm of writing right away. Also, since the manuscript lower-case alphabet is very close to the cursive lower-case alphabet, the transition to cursive writing is made quickly and easily.

The common-stroke letter groups for teaching lower-case letters are shown below. Notice that in the first group, children learn three vowels and four consonants. This means they can begin to write words and phrases in D'Nealian manuscript almost immediately.



Q Which are taught first, capital letters or lower-case letters?

A Because over eighty-five percent of all writing involves lower-case letters, they are taught first. By the time children are making capital letters, they are able to write sentences, in addition to words and phrases.