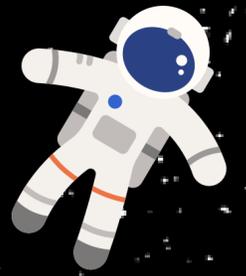




SPACE..in Handwriting



Getting the right amount of space between letters and words.

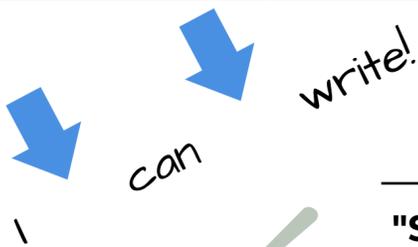
- When not spaced correctly, handwriting is **hard to read**.
- Children **must be taught** how to space their writing - it will not happen automatically



- Spacing issues in writing may be caused by:
 - not understanding how to leave space
 - challenges with visual spatial awareness
 - focus is on the content of the writing, not format
 - writing conditions - feeling rushed, tired

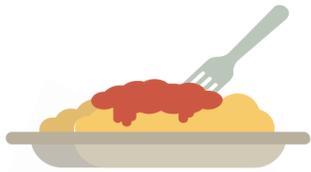


Teaching Strategies



write!

When teaching a new writer about spaces, make spaces really clear visually by adding **extra space** or highlight the space



"Spaghetti & Meatball"

Use a dry spaghetti noodle and a mini pom pom as a "meatball". Explain that the spaces between letters are as thin as a piece of spaghetti, but spaces between words are a bit bigger like the meatball.



Challenge the child to see how close they can get the tips of their fingers without touching. Tell them that is how close letters in a word should be. Have them repeat: "**Letters in words are close but not touching**"



Make a story to help them remember to watch their spaces.

Tell them to add more "nothing" from your bottle of nothing for more space. Ask students to not leave any room between letters in words or else the dump truck might fill it!

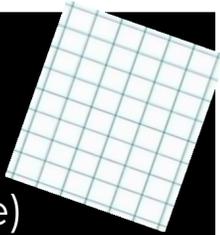


Check space between words with a small **candy**. If they left adequate space between words and the candy fits - they can eat it!

Tips & Tools for Students



Try graph paper - one letter per block, a blank block between words.
(Click for printable template)



Have child read work aloud and say "space" every place there should be a space.

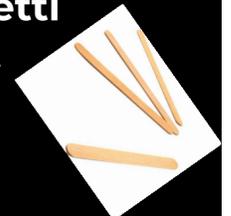


Ask the child to be their own detective. Find examples in their own work of correct spacing and places that the spacing needs some improvement.



A child can have their own **spaghetti and meatball** to check their work.

Or use a **popsicle stick**.
Flat side = space between words
Thin side = space between letters



Strategies that provide visual and tactile cues will provide more information which can help children learn what is expected and how to self-monitor their spacing.