



## *Why is Cursive Important?*

“What the hand does, the mind remembers.” –Dr. Maria Montessori

### The Advantages of Beginning with Cursive:

- All cursive lowercase letters start from the same point. This helps to eliminate difficulty with reversals and inversions in writing letters for young children.
- Research states that cursive writing trains the brain to have better hand-eye coordination.
- Research also indicates that cursive writing leads to better reading skills.
- Children who learn cursive rather than just manuscript, score better on reading and spelling tests, according to studies. This may occur because cursive forces students to think of the word as a whole, instead of as parts.
- Cursive writing involves a flowing, uninterrupted movement which reinforces the way we read, from left to right.
- Writing cursive allows children to think and write continuously.
- Cursive writing reinforces proper spacing and the blending of sounds.
- Once students have been introduced to cursive, learning manuscript is very simple. The opposite is not as simple. Students are also continually exposed to print throughout their classroom and home environments.

### The Disadvantages of Teaching Cursive in Later Years:

- Research shows introducing cursive in second and third grade causes writing speed and legibility to regress.
- Students at this age are not in a sensitive period for learning new writing styles.
- Segmentation of words occurs with manuscript and causes stiffness in muscles.
- Learning cursive at a later age, makes it difficult for students to completely transition to cursive, which leads to difficulty reading and writing completely in cursive.

Beginning with cursive has been the preferred method in Montessori schools nationwide for decades. Montessori schools and accredited training centers have found that it is far easier for young children to learn this way. Young children are fascinated with writing cursive and learning during a sensitive period encourages longer periods of concentration.

### Parent Support at Home:

Your support of cursive handwriting can help with consistency between home and school. For example, if your child asks to see how to write their name or your name, we ask that you show them in cursive handwriting, or show ways you use cursive in your daily life.

### Additional Resources:

- “Handwriting – Why Cursive?” by Natalie Bluestone, former Primary teacher  
<https://ruffingmontessori.net/home/about/why-montessori/montessori-articles/handwriting/>
- “Why Teach Cursive First?” by Denise Eide  
<https://blog.logicofenglish.com/why-teach-cursive-first#:~:text=With%20cursive%20the%20pencil%20is,of%20the%20hand%20than%20printing.>
- “Biological and Psychology Benefits of Learning Cursive” by William R. Klemm, Ph.D.  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/memory-medic/201308/biological-and-psychology-benefits-learning-cursive>
- “Improve Reading & Hand-Eye Coordination by Learning Cursive?” by William R. Klemm, Ph.D.  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/memory-medic/201502/improve-reading-hand-eye-coordination-learning-cursive>