



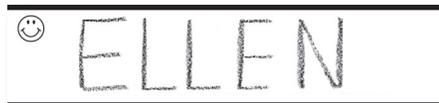
Help Me Write My Name

Children love their names! Does your child recognize their name? Do you see them trying to write their name? Teaching children to write their name depends on two things: age and readiness.

Capital Name

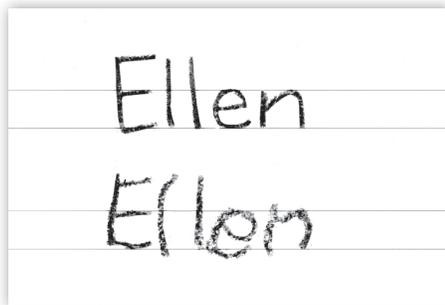
Your child won't always write in capitals, but it's the easiest way for them to start. This is especially true for your struggling writers or children with special needs. You can explain that there are two ways to write a name. The big letter way and the little letter way. Show them both, but focus on capitals first. Explain to them that when their hands get stronger, they can learn the other way, too.

1. Teach name in capitals with careful demonstration and imitation activities.
2. Copy and use this name strip (to the right) or make your own. Put your strip above your child's strip. Demonstrate each letter on your strip and wait for your child to imitate you. Do this letter by letter (see below).



Title Case Name

When you feel your child has had sufficient practice with their capitals, it's time to add lowercase letters. Most children look forward to learning this new skill. Teach title case name using demonstration and imitation on double lines. When teaching their name in title case, consider using paper with wide double lines to give your child guidance. Use 8.5" by 11" paper with double lines drawn about 1.5 inches apart (see below).



Educate Parents

On the next page, copy the information and send home with name strips.



Help Me Write My Name

"That's my name. My name starts with ____." Maybe your child is trying to write or even make letters you can recognize. If so, then it's time to start showing your child how to write a few letters. Here's how:

1. Be a good example.
2. Write in all capitals.
3. Start every letter at the top.
4. Teach letters step by step.
5. Write on paper strips with a smiley face in top left corner.

How can I be a good example?

Hold the crayon correctly. Your child will be watching both how you make the letters and how you hold the crayon or pencil. Be sure to be a good model. You may need to make a special effort to hold it correctly.

Why should I use all capitals?

Capitals are the first letters to learn. Capitals are the letters children can visually recognize and remember. Capitals are the first letters children can physically write. You may use lowercase if you and your child's teacher think your child is ready.

Does it matter where my child starts?

Yes, it does. English has one basic rule for both reading and writing: read and write English from the top to bottom, left to right. When you write with your child, always start at the top!

What do I say when I teach the letters?

This is easy. Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you're making. Say "big" or "little" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape, like this: **D** = "I start at the top. I make a Big Line. Now I make a Big Curve."

What kind of paper should I use?

Just fold a paper in half the long way and then in half again. Cut. That will give you four strips, about 2" by 11". You can adjust the size if your child needs to write bigger. Now put a smiley face in the top left corner of each strip. Use two strips. You write on the top one; your child writes on the bottom one. Make the capital letters as big as the paper.

