

## New American Cursive® Teaching Tips

- Start early - cursive is easier to learn than printing. A child does not have to perfect printing before starting cursive.
- Use a simplified cursive alphabet. The *New American Cursive Alphabet (NAC)* has 26 fewer strokes than the three most-used cursive styles. It was designed with beginning writers in mind.
- Emphasize the importance of correct posture, pencil and paper position.

### Making the most of your classroom time:

- Recommended handwriting instruction time is 15 minutes a day. However, you may want to give a little extra time for the artwork page at the end of the *NAC* lessons. Short practice sessions help students remain alert, excited and eager for more.
- Consider starting the day with handwriting instruction when your students are fresh and alert. It will allow you to include the new lesson with other handwriting practice times throughout the day.
- Use light classical music during handwriting practice to relax students and improve fluidity and instill a sense of rhythm.
- Teach handwriting every school day to improve legibility, speed and consistency. You can use one day for review, special handwriting projects or journaling without introducing a new lesson.
- Integrate cursive writing with other subjects. The *StartWrite/NAC* software allows you to create cursive practice sheets to include spelling words, the student's name, scripture, quotes, poems, etc.
- If students are struggling with certain letters or lessons spend some extra time on practice before moving on to the next lesson.

- Art helps develop fine motor skills. Elementary language arts are strengthened with drawing instruction and it is a fun way to supplement the curriculum by having the children write about their artwork.
- Allow children to draw large letters on the board and then have them add the starting dots and direction arrows to illustrate how the letter is made.
- Instruct students to circle their best letter or word on their practice sheets. It helps train their eyes as well as their hand.

### Finishing the New American Cursive® workbook:

- The *NAC* goal is to teach children to master and love handwriting, not to finish every single workbook page perfectly.
- Pace your lessons so students can move at a comfortable speed.
- Be flexible about moving through the penmanship program. The aim is for children to be able write legible words and sentences fluidly.
- Completed workbooks build confidence and can become showpieces of the student's work.

### Extra Tips

- Allow flexibility in handwriting style so the child's personality can emerge.
- Make it fun; writing should be pleasurable to children.
- As a teacher your enthusiasm is critical in helping children develop this valuable life-long skill.

### Do you have handwriting tips to share?

Send them to us at [iris@NewAmericanCursive.com](mailto:iris@NewAmericanCursive.com)