

ez Write™



**The Easy, Effective and  
Affordable Handwriting Program  
that Bridges Writing to Reading**



# Agenda

- Why Handwriting is Important
- ez Write Vision
- ez Write Program Basics
- ez Write Unique Features
- Effectiveness Research
- Feedback from Parents
- The ez Write Brand Promise
- Summary



# Why Handwriting is Important

- Substantial academic research now confirming the importance of handwriting and the link to learning to read.
  - “One often-overlooked tool for improving students’ reading, as well as their learning from text, is writing. Writing has the theoretical potential for enhancing reading in 3 ways. First, reading and writing are both functional activities that can be combined to accomplish specific goals. Second, reading and writing are connected, as they draw upon common knowledge and cognitive processes. Third, reading and writing are both communication activities, and writers should gain insight about read by creating their own texts, leading to better comprehension of texts produced by others.” (Graham, S., and Hebert, M. - 2010)
  - “Handwriting, and in particular the automaticity of letter production, appears to facilitate higher-order composing processes by freeing up working memory to deal with the complex tasks of planning, organizing, revising and regulating the production of text. Research suggests that automatic letter writing is the single best predictor of length and quality of written composition in the primary years.” (Feder, K. and Majnemer, A. - 2007)

**Handwriting is the hands on way that children learn to read.**



# ez Write Vision



- Implement a **fun and “ez”** handwriting program that will help students bridge writing to reading and is developmentally appropriate and research based.
- Teach students how to form letters and numbers so they develop **“automaticity”** and are able to write quickly and creatively.
- Develop a **“Common Language”** for handwriting that will be used between classrooms, grade levels, and school buildings.
- Develop an **“atmosphere of excellence”** with a handwriting program that works for students who have varying abilities and learning styles.



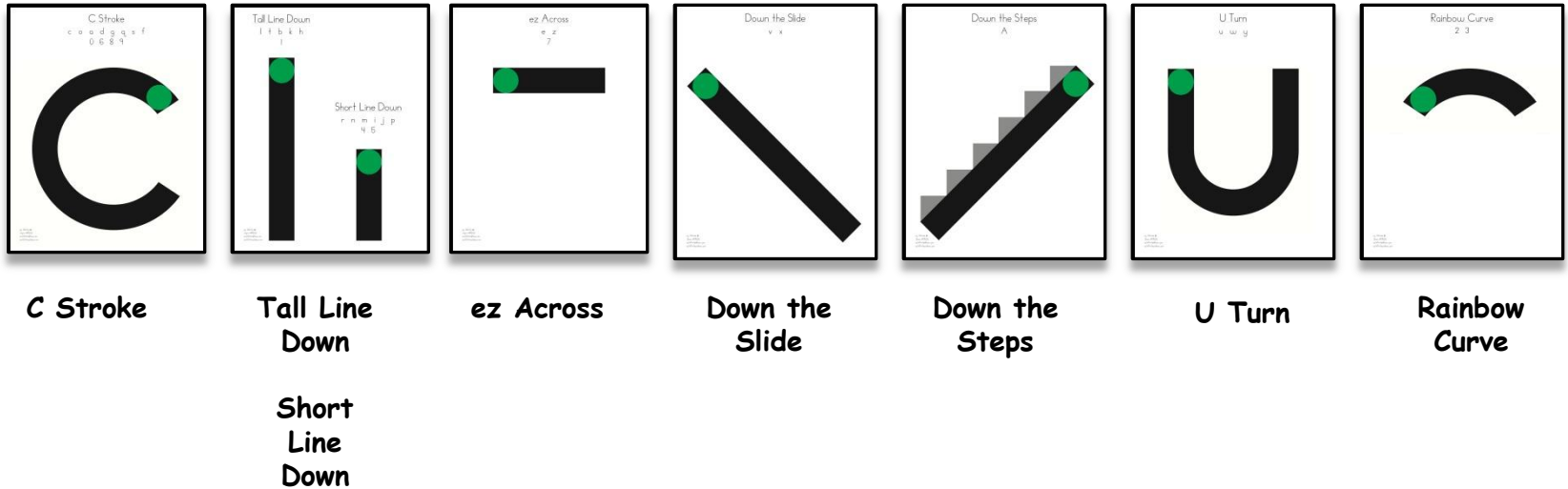
# ez Write Program Basics

- Program developed for Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- Includes curriculum in both manuscript and cursive (beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade).
- Kits with all needed materials are available by grade. Also available in a Special Education/ELL kit and Home Kit for parents.



# ez Write Program Basics

- Program based on 8 Beginning Strokes, all with easy-to-remember names.

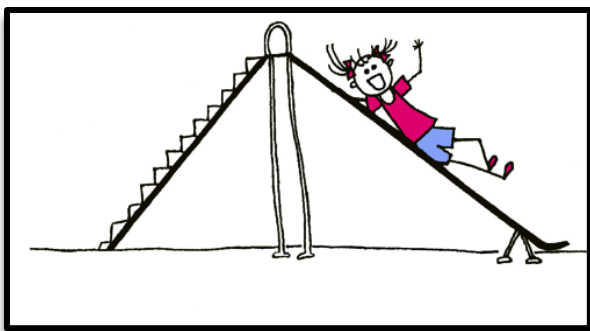


- Foundation of entire curriculum is committing these 8 Beginning Strokes to "Muscle Memory." /Users/Grammy/Desktop/P600 ez Write posters copy.jpg

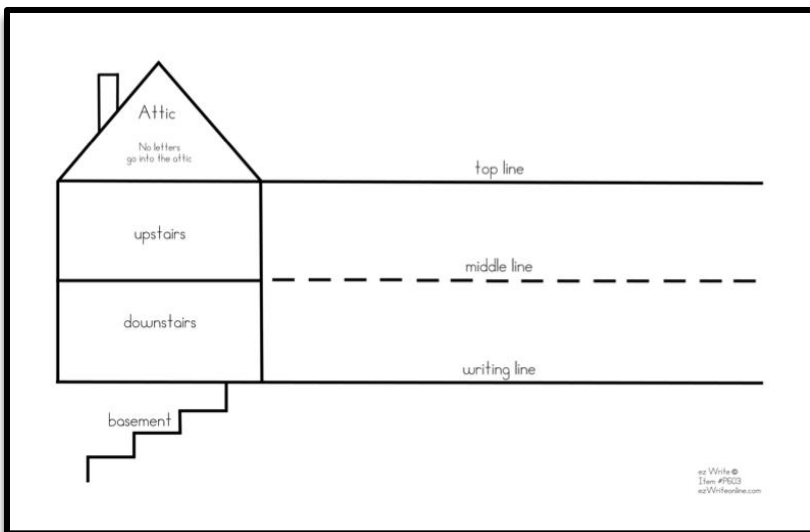
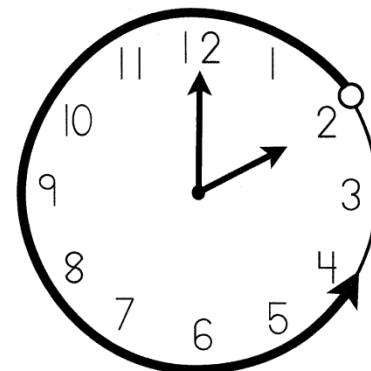
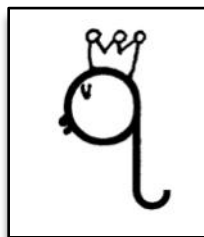


# ez Write Program Basics

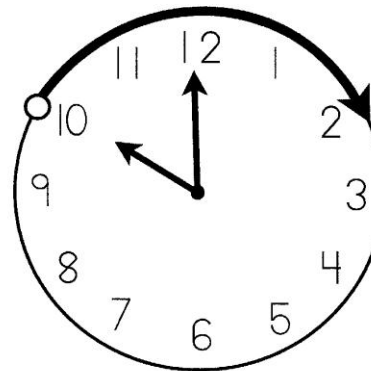
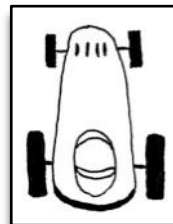
- Other teaching tools available with the ez Write program:



"queen's hair"



"ez Racer"

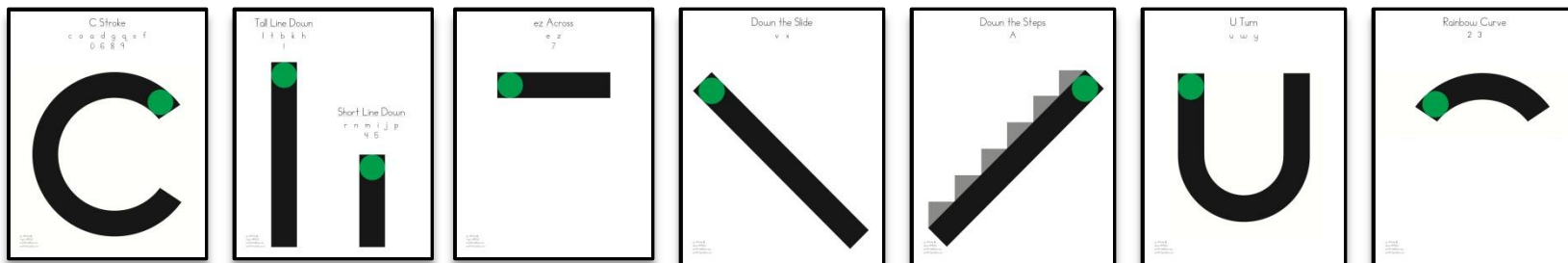




# ez Write Unique Features

## Muscle Memory

The teacher will know when students have mastered this skill, because they will be able to write all of the 8 Beginning Strokes from dictation. Reversing letters is a common problem with elementary students, but teaching to “Muscle Memory” helps eliminate reversals.



Once the 8 Beginning Strokes have been committed to Muscle Memory, students are able to easily write all of the letters and numbers using these strokes.





# ez Write Unique Features

## Automaticity

Automaticity is the ability of students to retrieve and produce letters automatically. The ez Write program uses the "Alphabet Race" in First through Fifth Grade to help increase students' Letters per Minute by writing the alphabet as quickly as they can. When letter production is automatic, memory space is freed up for higher level composing skills and students are able to get their thoughts on paper quicker and often in more creative ways.

### The "Alphabet Race" is Born

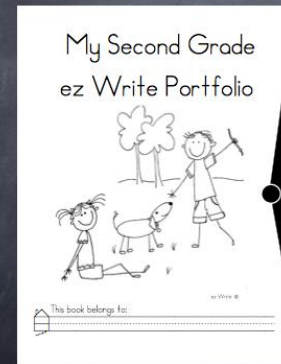
A quick and fun way for students to improve their writing time and develop "Automaticity"

The speed that children can write determines how fast they can transfer their ideas to paper

Used in Grades 1-5

### ez Write Portfolios

Designed as Formative Assessments



The Portfolios were designed to Record and Monitor:

**Creative Writing**

**Writing Speed**

**Sentence Structure**

**Letter Formation**



# ez Write Unique Features

## Letters Taught in Groupings

Instead of alphabetical order, letters are taught in groupings by the Beginning Stroke used to create them. This helps the student code the letters to memory, which is a prerequisite to learning to read. The students whisper the letter sound as they write the letters to reinforce the process.

Tall Line Down:	l	t	b	k	h	l						
Short Line Down:	r	n	m	i	j	p	4	5				
ez Across	e	z					7					
U Turn	u	w	y									
Down the Slide	v	x										
Rainbow Curve							2	3				
C Stroke	c	o	a	d	g	q	s	f	0	6	8	9
Down the Steps	(no lowercase letters start with this stroke)											



# ez Write Unique Features

## Strong Language Arts Connection

High frequency words are used throughout the program to produce a strong connection to reading. Phonics, word families, rhyming, alliteration, and sentence structure are all incorporated into the ez Write worksheets.

ez Write © Kindergarten Uppercase Student Worksheets Lesson 10 backside

Have the students fill in the missing letters.

Have the students trace the sentence starting on the dots.

Have the students copy the sentence to the line below.

Please write the sentence at home.

ez Write © First Grade Lowercase Teacher Worksheets Lesson 1 backside

tall line down - ez across Uppercase Letters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Have the students put their pencil on the dot and write the letter as you read the instructions.

- put your pencil on the "top line"
- make a tall line down to the "writing line"
- make ez across lines on the "top", "middle" and "writing" lines

Have the students trace the tall line down then return to the starting point and make ez across lines on the "top", "middle" and "writing" lines to finish the E. Have the students finish the line and circle their best letter.

Have the students trace the ez across line and add a c stroke to finish the e. Have the students finish the line and circle their best letter.

Have the students practice the tall line down - ez across letters they have learned.

Practice this line at home.

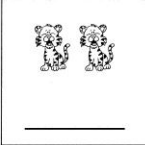

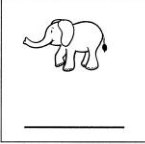
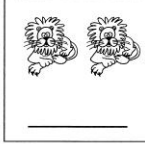
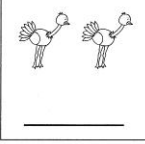
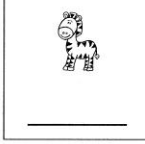
ez Write © First Grade Teacher Uppercase Worksheets Lesson 21



# ez Write Unique Features

## Skill Application Worksheets


Worksheets all have an application of the skill taught on the backside of the worksheet. The first and second grade worksheets offer differentiated learning for different student abilities and encourage creative writing.

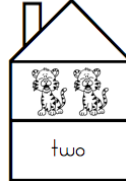
	
	
	


Count the objects in each box and write the number on the line.

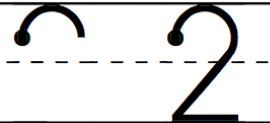
ez Write © Kindergarten Number Worksheets Lesson 15 backside


Name \_\_\_\_\_


 \_\_\_\_\_


 two





 2 2 2 2 . . . 2


 . . . 2 2 . . . 2

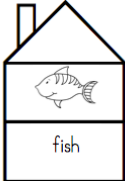
 Please practice this line of home. 2 2 . . . 2


ez Write © Kindergarten Student Number Worksheets Lesson 1

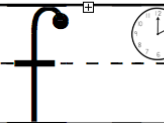
c stroke Letters c o a d g q s f


Name \_\_\_\_\_


 \_\_\_\_\_


 fish





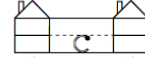
 f f f f . . . f




 c o a d g q s f

 Please practice this line of home. c o a d g q s f




ez Write © Kindergarten Lowercase Student Worksheets Lesson 8

Find: 3 - c


 c

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 c c c c . . . c

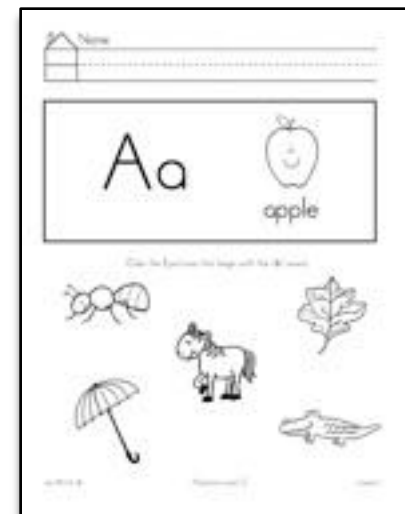
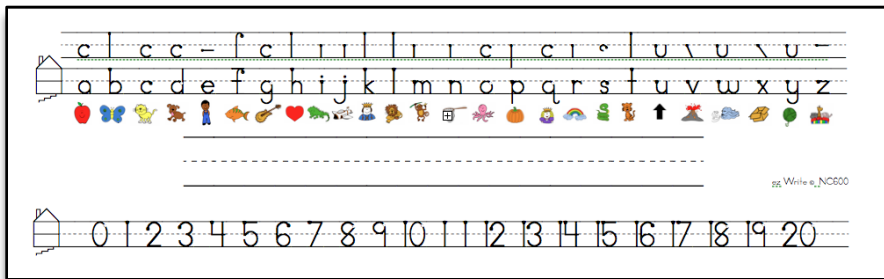
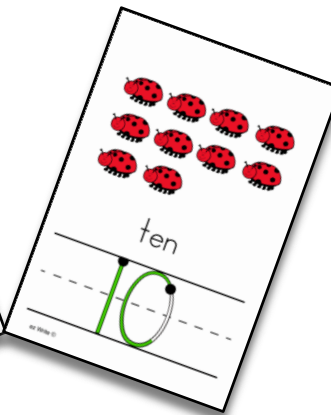
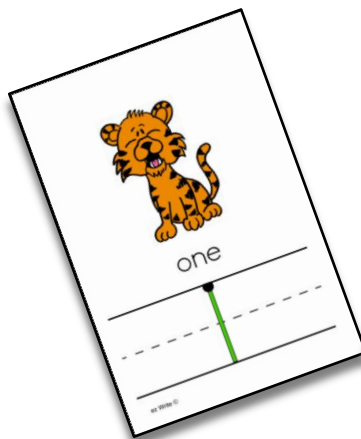
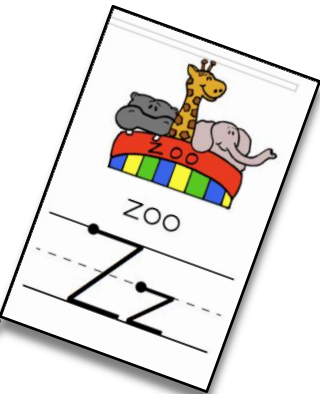
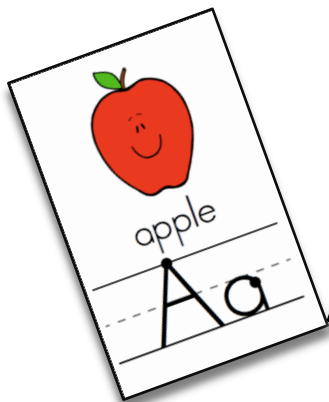
ez Write © Kindergarten Lowercase Student Worksheets Lesson backside



# ez Write Unique Features

## Common Language / Materials

Common language and materials used across grade levels and schools, especially helpful for ELL and special needs students.

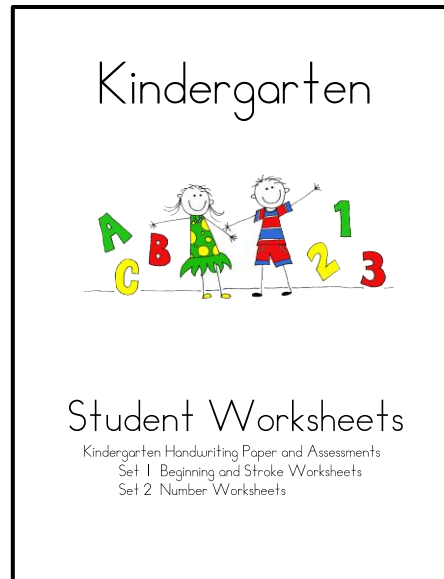




# ez Write Unique Features

## Multi-Sensory and Multi-Disciplinary with Strong Home/School Connection

All four channels into the brain: seeing, saying, hearing and writing are used in the lessons to make ez Write effective. Activities can take place in art, music and physical education to reinforce the strokes and create continuity throughout the school. ez Write also has a strong home/school connection built into the program.



Worksheets go home with instructions to teach parents how to form the letters. ez Write does not use workbooks that stay at school.





# ez Write Unique Features

## Custom Fonts

The ez Write program was written using an outline font specifically designed to make handwriting easy, fun and legible. There are 8 different fonts for teacher and classroom use. These fonts are available on the Teacher Resource CD for school and home use.

### ez Write Outline Font



Helps reduce bottom up writing

Helps students learn to write smaller and more uniformly

### 8 ez Write Custom Fonts

ez Write Font: Used for letters, classroom materials, etc.

ez Write Line Font: Use for worksheets

ez Write Beginning Dot: Use for worksheets

ez Write Outline Font: Outline, beginning dot font

ez Write Starting Dot Font

ez Write Beginning Stroke Font

ez Write Outline Strokes



# ez Write Unique Features

## Training DVD, Intervention Guide, and Grade-Level Intervention Worksheets

Classroom teachers and volunteers are trained using the ez Write Training DVD, Handwriting Helper Guide, and learn to use Handwriting Helper Worksheets to do quick interventions to help students correct handwriting errors.

**ez Write Training**  
To Help Identify and Correct Handwriting Problems

**ez Write Training Video**  
For Teachers and Handwriting Helpers

**Karen Koziol**  
Handwriting Helper  
Lincoln Elementary

ez Write  
Handwriting Intervention Guide

This chart is designed to help Teachers and Handwriting Helpers identify and choose interventions that assist students who are struggling with the mechanics of writing and letter formation.

Teachers, assistants and school volunteers who wish to support their students can do this by becoming familiar with the ez Write Program through reading the Teacher Guide, watching the ez Write Training DVD and becoming familiar with the new Handwriting Helper Worksheets.

Skill Deficit - Learning 8 Strokes	Remedial Strategy	Materials Needed
Student is unable to independently trace and name the 8 Beginning Strokes on the wall posters.	Have the student place their finger on the green dot and then carefully trace each stroke. Have them name the stroke as they begin making each stroke.	Wall Posters of Write Training DVD Movie #2, Chapter #2
Student is unable to independently trace each stroke in the air using the finger of their writing hand.	Have the student practice tracing the wall posters and writing the strokes in the air with their finger until they are able to write them in the air independently as you name the strokes.	ez Write Training DVD Movie #2, Chapter #2
Student is unable to independently trace each stroke in the air with their eyes closed.	Have the student continue to practice writing the strokes in the air until they are able to do it with their eyes closed as you name the strokes.	ez Write Training DVD Movie #2, Chapter #2
Student is unable to independently write the strokes in a sand tray on a whiteboard or on a chalkboard.	Have the student practice writing the strokes in a sand tray, on a whiteboard or on a chalkboard until they are able to write them independently in random order.	Sand Tray Whiteboard or Chalkboard ez Write Training DVD Movie #2, Chapter #2
Student is unable to write the 8 Beginning Strokes on paper.	Continue working in a sand tray, on a whiteboard or chalkboard until the student is able to write the 8 Beginning Strokes independently in random order with pencil and paper.	Sand Tray Pencil and Paper Movie #2, Chapter #2

ez Write © ez Write Handwriting Intervention Guide 16

“ج ز ي” Hook  
“ج ز ي” Hooks all go the same way.

Most students do not reverse “ج” or “ز” so be sure to show them they all go the same way.

The letter “ج” is one of the most of ten reversed letters. Practice the upper and lowercase “ج ز ي”.

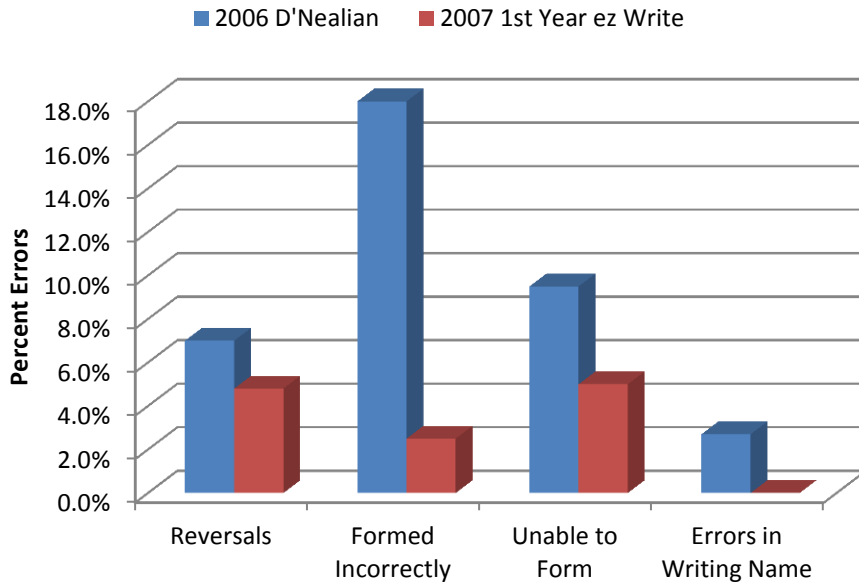
ez Write © First Grade Handwriting Helper Worksheet #5





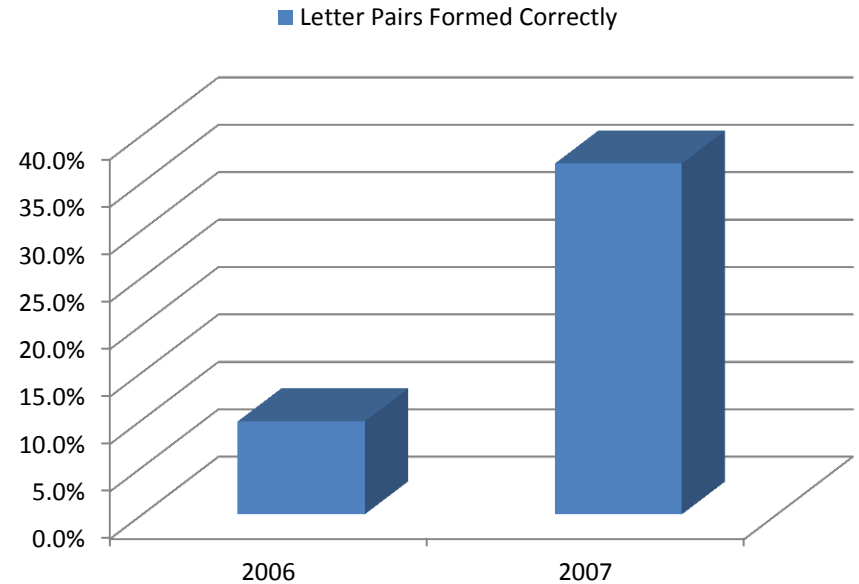
# Effectiveness Research Pilot Study Results

### Kindergarten - Errors



Comparison of end-of-year handwriting errors assessments for 2006 students using D'Nealian vs. 2007 students using ez Write

### Kindergarten – Letters Formed Correctly

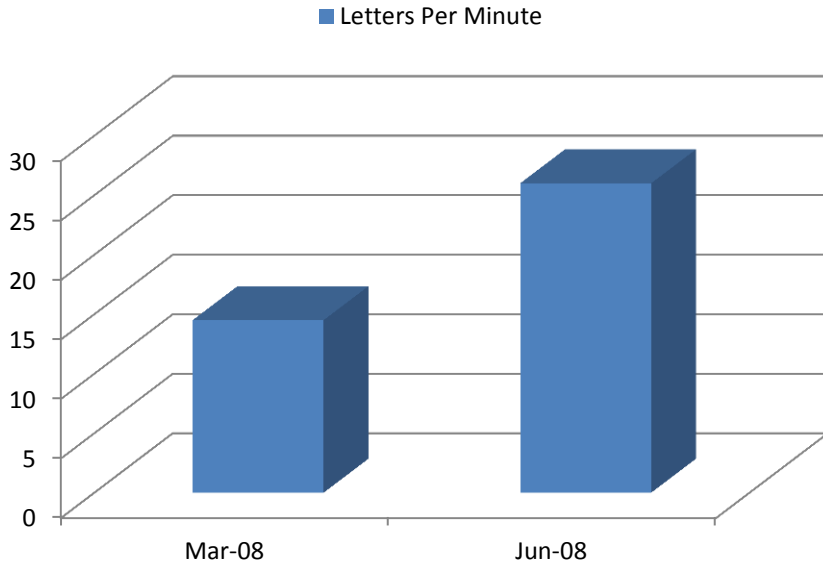


Comparison of end-of-year handwriting formation errors assessments for 2006 students using D'Nealian vs. 2007 students using ez Write



# Effectiveness Research Pilot Study Results

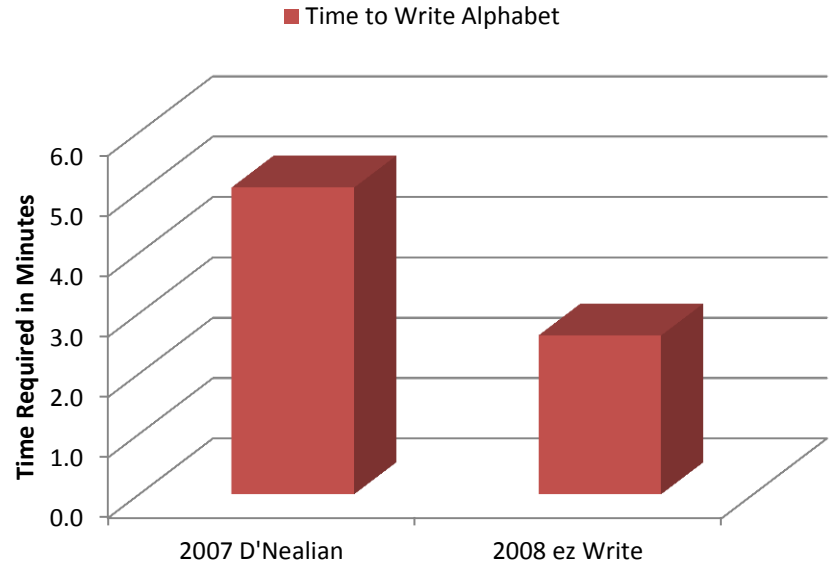
## First Grade "Alphabet Race"



Comparison of handwriting speed after only 3 months of introducing the Alphabet Race

**79% improvement**

## First Grade - Speed



Comparison of end-of-year handwriting speed assessments for 2007 students using D'Nealian vs. 2008 students using ez Write

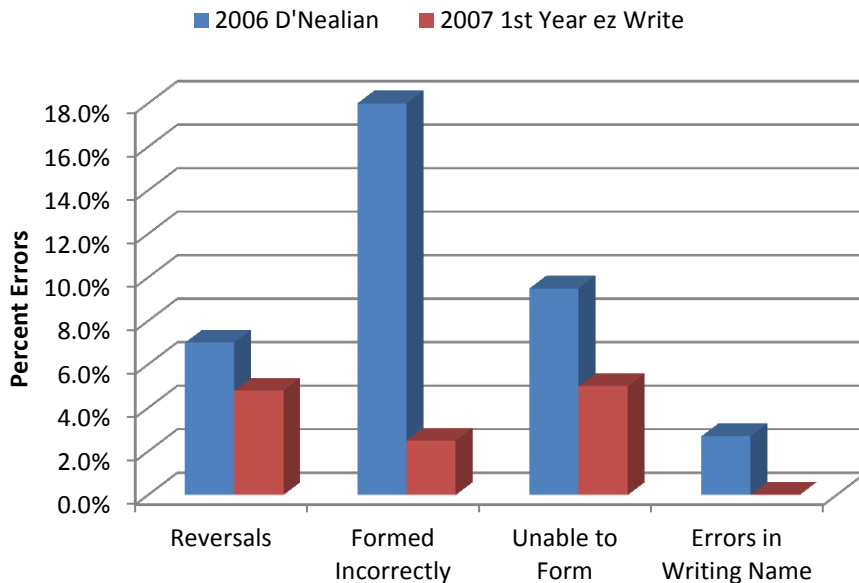
**48% improvement**



# Effectiveness Research Response to Intervention

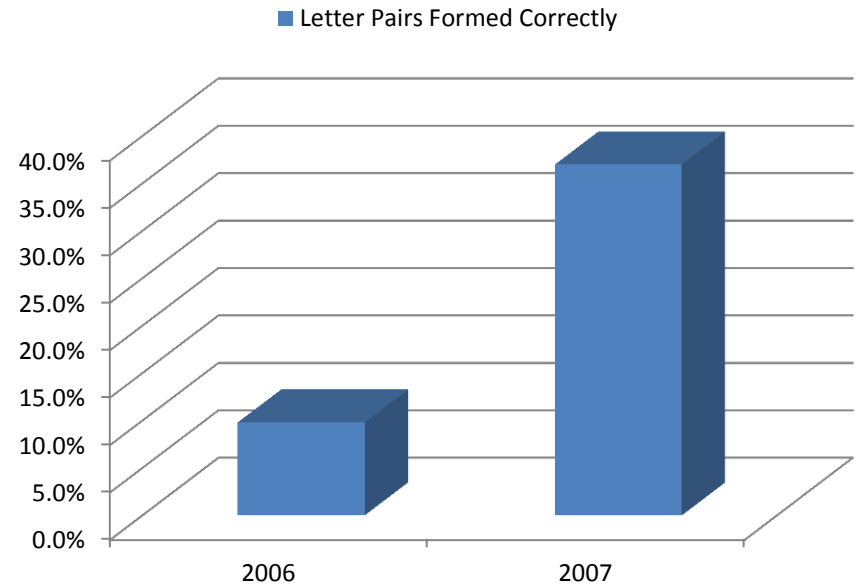
## Response to Intervention

**Kindergarten - Legibility**



Comparison of end-of-year handwriting legibility assessments for 2006 students using D'Nealian vs. 2007 students using ez Write

**First Grade - Speed**

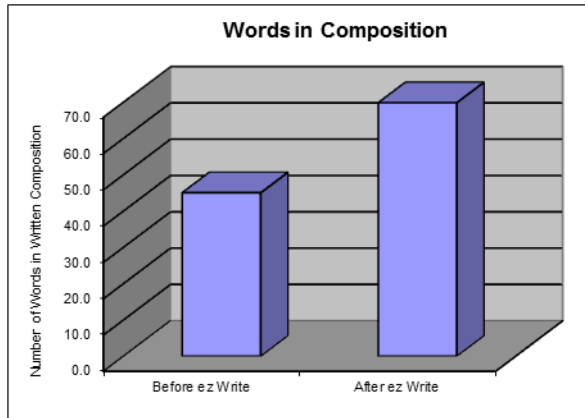


Comparison of end-of-year handwriting speed assessments for 2007 students using D'Nealian vs. 2008 students using ez Write

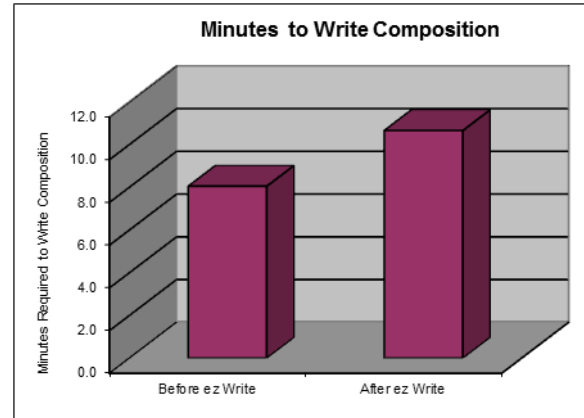


# Effectiveness Research Response to Intervention

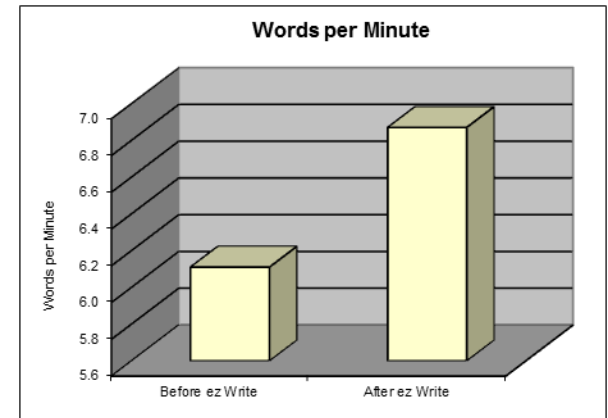
- The charts below measured the improvement in number of words in composition, minutes to write composition, and words per minute



**55% improvement**



**32% improvement**



**12% improvement**

- After 10 weeks of ez Write in conjunction with direct writing instruction, students wrote longer compositions, spent more time creating their compositions, and expressed/wrote their thoughts much faster than prior to ez Write.

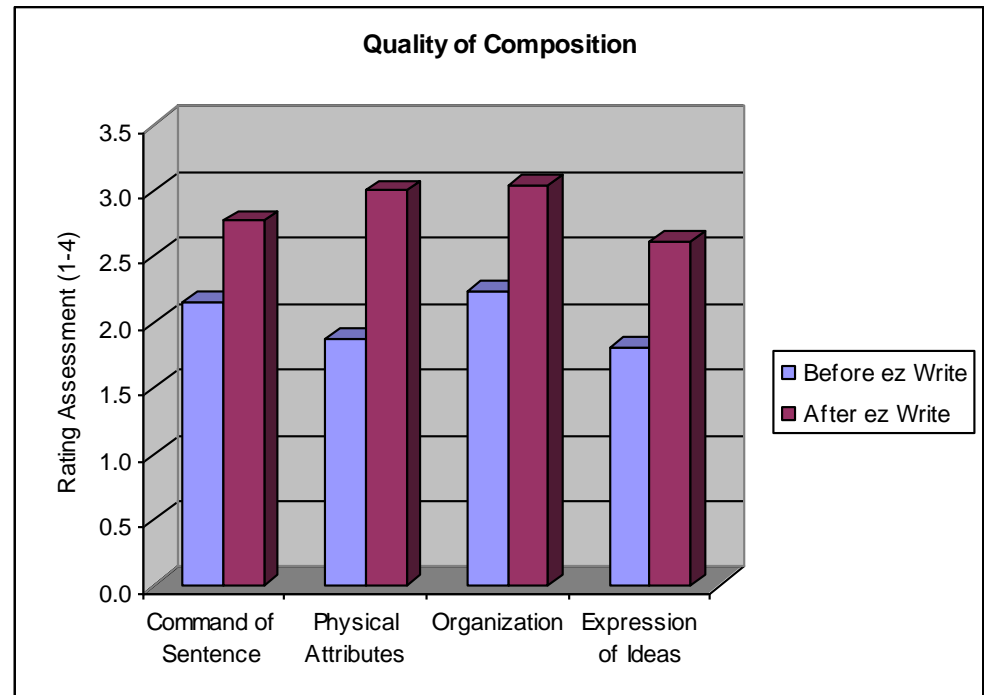


# Effectiveness Research Response to Intervention

- The charts below measured the improvement in overall quality of composition, as measured on a 4-point scale with pre-defined, objective criteria

## Improvement

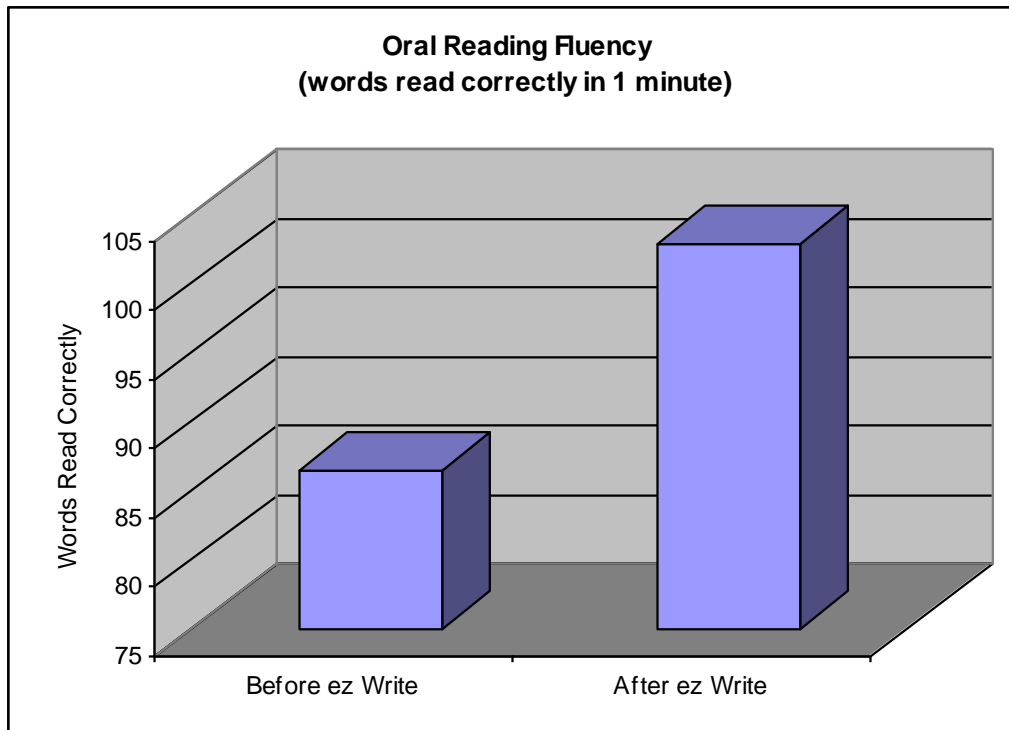
Command of Sentence	29%
Physical Attributes	60%
Organization	36%
Expression of Ideas	45%





# Effectiveness Research Response to Intervention

- The chart below measured the improvement in number of words read correctly in one minute, as measured by the *DIBELS* Oral Reading Fluency (2003) evaluation.



**19% improvement**

- After 10 weeks of ez Write, improvements in writing also translated into improvements in reading ability

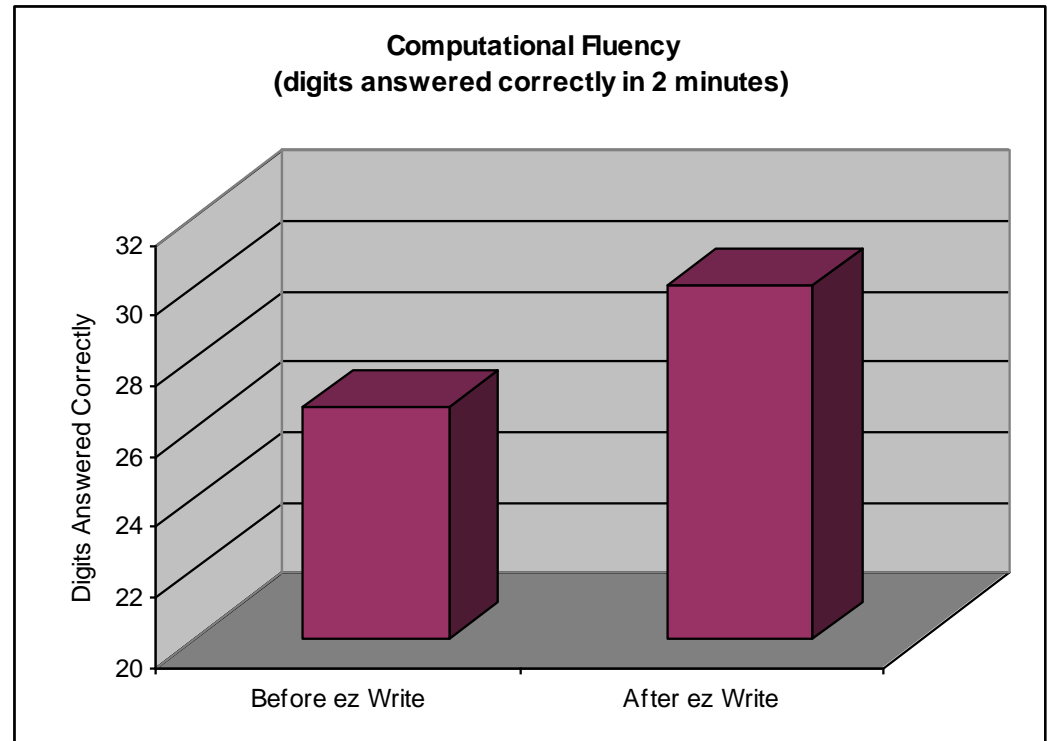


# Effectiveness Research Response to Intervention

- The chart below measured the improvement in ability to quickly solve one and two-digit addition and subtraction problems using an *AIMSweb* Math Computation test.

*13% improvement*

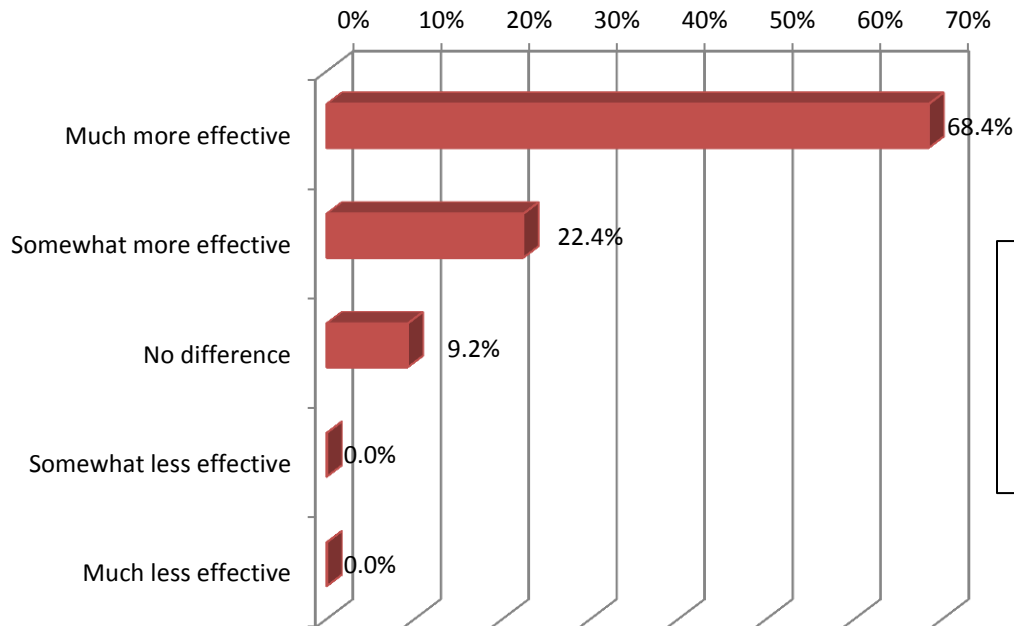
- After 10 weeks of ez Write, improvements in writing also translated into improvements in mathematical / computational ability





# Feedback from Parents

- Parents of ez Write pilot program students were asked how ez Write compares with other handwriting programs their other children have completed
- Data shown below is compiled from all surveys (2 schools, 2 grades, 3 different school years)



***91% of parents rated ez Write as more effective or much more effective than other handwriting curriculum***



ez Write®



# The ez Write Brand Promise

ez Write is the *easy, effective and affordable* handwriting program that bridges writing to reading.



# Easy, Effective, Affordable

- Easy for teachers to learn and teach
  - The program is simple, with fewer components and elements to learn.
  - Common language and materials for consistency from grade to grade
- Easy for students to learn
  - Based on learning the 8 Beginning Strokes to Muscle Memory
  - Program is fun and engaging for students and parents.



# Easy, Effective, Affordable

- Effective as a yearly curriculum addition.
  - Substantial improvements in pilot studies in both speed and legibility of composition.
- Effective as an intervention tool.
  - Significant improvements measured in
    - ✓ Speed of writing
    - ✓ Length and quality of composition when combined with writing instruction
    - ✓ Oral reading fluency
    - ✓ Computational fluency
- Spectacular feedback from parents

ez Write®

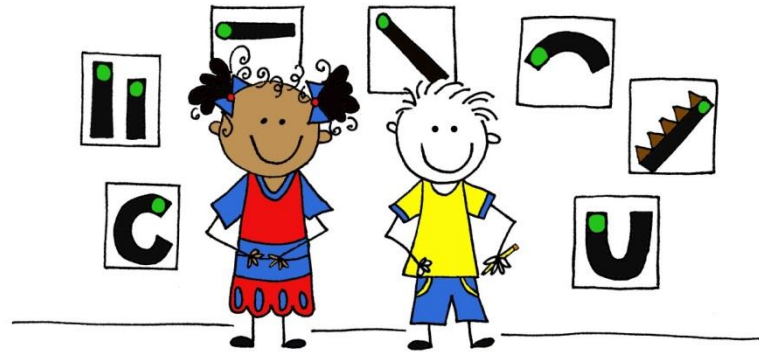


# Easy, Effective, Affordable

- Competing handwriting curriculums suggest purchasing 15+ separate items, costing well over \$1,000 for a class of 30 students.
  - Replacement components are costly
  - Annual reorder workbook requirements ~\$8 per student
- With ez Write
  - One kit to order per classroom up to 30 students
  - \$445 for Preschool, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade kits
  - \$345 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade kits
  - \$295/\$145 for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade kits respectively
  - No expensive parts and pieces to get damaged or broken
  - Annual reorder requirement is minimal
    - \$0.70 per student for Preschool, Kindergarten
    - \$2.29 per student for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



# Summary



- Choosing ez Write will allow you to implement an easy, effective and affordable handwriting curriculum for your students
  - Easy for teachers to teach and students to learn
  - Effective as both basic handwriting curriculum and via intervention, for all levels and styles of learning ability
  - Affordable for districts and schools who understand the importance of handwriting curriculum and are working with limited budgetary funds.