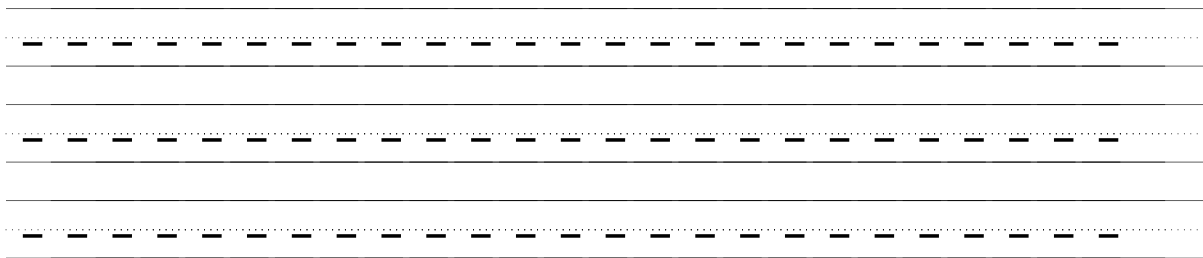

Tips on Teaching Manuscript

- Remember **legibility** is what counts. It doesn't have to be pretty.
- With the exception of the dots over the i's and j's and the crossings of the f, t, and x, all lower case letters should be made with **one continuous stroke**.
- The small letters *a d h i k l m n t u w x* should have little **upward hooks** at the end. The hooks are lead-ins for the next letter when *cursive* is taught. If you insist on the hooks, your children will find the transition to *cursive* much easier. However, if one of your children makes the hook too big or too sloppy, you can let the child end the stroke at the line without a hook. If you or one of your children prefers the strokes of another continuous stroke system such as Getty-Dubay Italic, let them use it. Different strokes for different folks is okay as long as it's legible and cannot be confused with another letter.
- Try to make sure your children **slant** their letters. The slant does not have to perfectly match the samples, but it should be **consistent**. If they insist on straight vertical or even a backward slant, okay. But they should be consistent!
- If you have special lined paper for children to use, it is a definite help.

- *Special lined paper looks like this.*

Notice the neatness of the appearance.

- If you don't have special lined paper, you can use regular lined paper and have your children practice using their rulers and putting in light pencil lines to divide every other line. They will write only on the lines that are divided with the light pencil line. Lines without a light pencil line dividing it will provide sufficient space so that the writing will not appear as crowded together.



More Tips on Teaching Manuscript

- Tracing letters and tracing words and even tracing sentences may be of great help to some children who may be having difficulty in writing the letters or in having the proper *slant* or size.
- Having children trace letters, words, or phrases that are written on your dry erase board may help lock the letters into the “big muscle” memory.
- Make sure your children leave ample space between words. The space should be no more than the amount of space that it would take to write the letter n. The space after a period should be no more than equal to two n’s.
- *To demonstrate the need for proper spacing you can run words together like the following.*
To demonstrate the need for spacing you can run words together like this. To demonstrate the need for consistent spacing, you can space words together like this. To demonstrate the need for consistent spacing, you can run words together like this. To demonstrate the need for consistent spacing, you can run words together like this.

Even More Tips on Teaching Manuscript

- To demonstrate the need for consistent size of letters you can deliberately do something like this.
- We have found that by deliberately exaggerating typical sloppy habits, we can help our children achieve very legible manuscript handwriting.
- We have also found that parents who practice writing manuscript upside down have a better understanding of why AVKO Sequential Handwriting is the best method of teaching handwriting.

Tips on Teaching Manuscript

Evaluation Guidelines

Date _____ Child _____

Class Hour _____

	Always	Usually	Sometimes
1. Has consistent slant.			
2. Has consistent spacing between letters.			
3. Has consistent spacing between words.			
4. Has consistent spacing between sentences.			
5. Has consistent height of the lower case, small letters: <i>a, c, e, i, m, n,</i> <i>o, r, s, u, v, w,</i> <i>x, z</i>			
6. Has consistent height of the taller lower case letters: <i>b,</i> <i>f, h, k, l, t</i>			
7. Has consistent height of the lower case letters that extend below the base line: <i>g, j,</i> <i>p, q.</i>			
8. Correctly forms letters so there is no doubt as to what letter is intended.			