

Correcting Letter Reversals:

- developmentally it is normal for children to reverse letters when learning to print; some children may write their names with transposed, mirror image letters
- sometime during the kindergarten year most children integrate writing without reversals
- in general, if a child is reversing several letters on a consistent basis by the end of kindergarten, it is important for teachers and parents to work on correcting reversals, although some teachers aren't really concerned about reversals until about the middle of second grade

Strategies:

- the most commonly reversed letters are /b/ and /d/
- if /b/ and /d/ are taught with specific verbal and visual cues that emphasize the starting point and "first stroke" such as "tall line down" for /b/ and "circle" letter for /d/, a student is less likely to reverse the letters
- overemphasis on commonly reversed letters during initial teaching helps; tactile cards can be made and sent home so parents can work on these letters daily by tracing them and talking about the starting point and "first stroke" of each letter
- use the "box game" by drawing about 15 boxes on a piece of paper, then call out the letters and have the students quickly fill each box with the letter that is called out. Parents can be taught the box game so they can play it with their children at home.
- teach the student to identify the letters that are commonly reversed by drawing the reversed letter on index cards correctly and then reversed. Use these as flash cards and have the student sort them into correct and incorrect piles.
- "draw" a letter on the student's back and have him/her identify it as right or wrong
- for some students it can be very frustrating to overcome reversals, so consistency and getting parents involved are very important
- parents can have children draw the letters in the air with their fingers while riding in the car
- have parents show their children letters on menus, signs, and food labels several times a day

First Strokes Handwriting Errors and Remedial Strategies

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