

First line strategies and suggestions to try

Awkward grasp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate proper grasp - pinch pencil shaft, eraser towards shoulder, fingers form "c", 4&5 finger tucked under • Use golf pencils • Trial slant board or three ring binder on it's side • Make sure paper is angled • Tuck item in pinky and ring finger (such as small pompom, goldfish, cottonball) • Practice writing on the board, on an easel, lying down
Messy writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check appropriate desk chair height, student should sit at 90 degree angle for hips/knees • Provide letter line on desk for copying • Provide simple letter formation review pages (no more than 5-10 minutes a day) • Make letters out of various items (pipe cleaners, wikki sticks, playdough) • Make boxes to write letters in
Poor use of margins and line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight baseline for writing • Highlight left side of paper • Highlight box or line for fill in papers • Wikki stick on line
Not enough spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "No touching rule" for printed letters • Use popsicle stick spacers or spacer card or small pom pom • Highlight spaces between words if copying text • Highlight margins on paper • Use boxes or graph paper - one letter per box • When dictating say "space" between words • Mental space bar
Difficulty copying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position child to front of class facing board and reduce visual clutter on board and papers • Use large print and or various colors of print • Skip lines when writing • Cover areas not to be copied, Utilize a "window" cut out to block other information • If copying from paper, use book stand so paper is upright • Copy in "chunks" • Give close visual copy if needed
Choppy or messy use of scissors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind thumb up position for cutting, sticker on thumb hole on scissors • Highlight lines to be cut • Use heavier paper • Encourage slow cutting • Break cutting task into smaller pieces
Difficulty sitting for appropriate amount of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow side sitting in chair or straddling chair, use standing desk • Provide movement breaks, can include errand outside of class • Transition between floor and table top tasks • Use animal walks to transition back to seat

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