

LETTER & NUMBER REVERSALS


To help correct letter and number reversals, try the following strategies:

- Practice scanning in a systematic and organized manner from left to right, and top down using search and find games, spot the difference, and step by step imitation drawing. These tasks require increased visual attention and use of spatial relationship skills that can also be helpful when trying to encourage proper letter formations.
- When practicing sentence writing, add a visual cue (ex: highlight) for left side start to help with left to right scanning and using the margin.
- Work on one reversal at a time (i.e. only one letter or number per page). Move onto another reversal only once client is able to correctly print the first letter/number consistently.
- Use the same verbal cues consistently during printing practice. Verbal cues from 'Learning Without Tears' (LWT) program are recommended.
- Review letters "b" and "d" separately because they are easily reversed. Teach them in different letter groups (i.e. following the LWT program, "b" is in the diver letters group and "d" is in the magic c group).
- Practice forming letters with eyes closed to ensure that learning that has been fully integrated and not visually based. This encourages mental practice and would include strategies such as verbalizing the formation while drawing in the air, inside the palm of the hand, on another person's back, etc.
- Review "d" first and over teach it (i.e., teach with many repetitions). Use of LWT program is recommended to teach that "magic c turns into d".
- Play the magic "c" letter game where you start with letter "c" and then randomly select a letter in the group to transform into (a, d, g, o, q) with extra focus on letter "d".
- Teach "h" and "b" together because "h" is rarely reversed so it can be used to correctly teach "b".
- It may be beneficial to use paper with letter boxes when practicing and reviewing upper case letter formations.

- Utilize a multi-sensory approach when over teaching reversals, for greater success and skill integration. For example, practice printing utilizing a variety of modalities including: a chalkboard or dry/erase board, on paper with scented markers, on sand or rice tray, with finger paint, with play dough, and using a tablet/iPad with a stylus and letter formation practice apps such as “Wet, Dry, Try” (by Learning Without Tears), Writing Wizard [by L’Escapadou (font set to HWT & game time limit set to 15s)] and LetterSchool (by Letterschool Enabling Learning B.V.).
- Utilize letter stories to help the child remember how to form challenging letters. The “Letter Stories” below from the LWT program are examples of story suggestions to help correct the reversals of “b” and “g”.

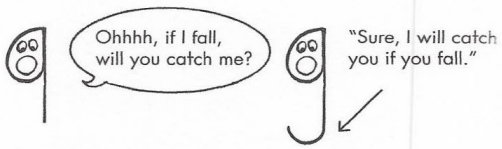
Honeybee

Say, “Let’s make letter h. Now let’s make another h. I have a surprise. This is an h for a honeybee.” Turn h into b.



If George Falls

Say, “Inside g lives a little man named George (draw a little face in g). He says, ‘Ohhhh, if I fall, will you catch me?’ Sure, I will catch you (turn the g to catch George) if you fall.”



- Refer to “Learning Without Tears” (LWT) website for additional strategies to help correct reversals (www.lwtears.com/blog/moving-forward-not-backward-reversals).