

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

THE
CHARLOTTE MASON
HANDWRITING
SERIES

SLANTED
CAPITALS

by Sonya Shafer



ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING PERFECTLY IN EVERY LESSON.

— CHARLOTTE MASON

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HANDWRITING
SERIES

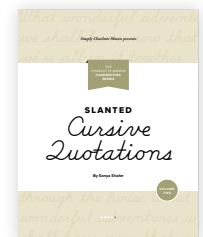
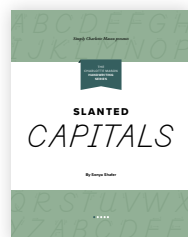
These five-minute lessons in forming the capital letters will hold a young child's attention and help him build the skill of focusing on the task at hand. Multi-sensory lessons with sand and a slate help your child to develop his writing muscles as he learns to control his body while making the letter shapes. Best effort is reinforced as your child is encouraged to take his time to carefully form each letter. And fun letter-play games keep lessons interesting.

For you, the teacher, each lesson includes detailed guidance so you'll know exactly how to teach the lesson. Diagrams, written instructions, and videos for forming each letter are also included.

The lay-flat binding of this all-in-one teacher and student book allows both right- and left-handed children to practice forming letters with comfort.

Start your child on the journey of handwriting with *The Charlotte Mason Handwriting Series: Capitals!*

Short, effective
handwriting
lessons from
capitals to cursive



Simply
Charlotte Mason

The Charlotte Mason Handwriting Series

SLANTED CAPITALS

by Sonya Shafer



Slanted Capitals is part of a complete Charlotte Mason curriculum. See where this course fits in the Simply CM curriculum at simplycm.com/curriculum & QR code.

The Charlotte Mason Handwriting Series: Slanted Capitals
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How to Use *Slanted Capitals*

These short, interactive handwriting lessons are designed for students who have completed *Delightful Reading Level 1: Playing with Letters and Sounds* or who can recognize the letters of the alphabet and are familiar with the sounds they represent.

Complete two lessons per week to finish this book in a school year. Each lesson should last less than 5 minutes.

Your child will learn a stroke and then the letters that can be made with that stroke and previously learned strokes.

Materials Needed

- Sand tray with sand
- Slate with slate pencil and eraser
- Pencil
- 13 index cards, self-stick notes, or scraps of paper
- A paper bag or small box
- Various household objects

How to Teach the Letters

For each new letter, you will guide your child through these steps over two lessons:

In the First Lesson

1. Observe the letter.

Show your child the model letter in this book and ask him what it is called. Ask the guiding questions given to help your child develop a habit of observation—looking closely and carefully to see what he can notice for himself.

2. Watch a demonstration of how to draw the letter.

Using the slate pencil on the slate, draw the letter slowly and carefully, so your child can see how it is formed. Read aloud the given description as you draw. Convenient diagrams and videos are provided to help you make sure you are demonstrating the letter correctly. You can access the videos using the QR code in each lesson.

3. Practice drawing the letter in sand and on the slate.

Give your child the sand tray and have him draw the letter. Have him compare it to the model in this book and your letter on the slate. Encourage him to rub out any parts that are not like the model and try again until his letter looks just like the model. Once he feels confident in making the letter correctly, erase the slate and allow him to draw one on it.

Be sure to stop the lesson while your child is still engaged. Short lessons help your child develop a habit of paying attention for the entire lesson, all the way to the last moment. Once he has that habit in place, lessons can gradually become longer as he progresses to higher grade levels.

If your child begins to lose attention partway through, stop the lesson. Go do something entirely different, that uses a different part of his brain and body, then come back and finish the lesson. Alternatively, you can set the lesson aside and finish it tomorrow.

It is important to pause and let time pass between the first and second lesson for each letter you are teaching. You want to give your child time to process what he has learned and to reinforce long-term memory by asking him to retrieve that knowledge a few days later.

In the Second Lesson

1. Practice drawing the letter in sand and on the slate.

Show your child the model letter and ask if he remembers how to draw it. Give your child the sand tray and have him draw the letter. If it does not look like the model, encourage him to compare

carefully, rub out any parts that are different, and try again. Once his sand-tray letter looks just like the model, allow him to draw one on the slate.

2. Write the letter with pencil on paper.

Once his slate letter looks just like the model, set aside the sand tray and slate, give him a pencil, and have him write the letter four times on the page in this book. (The pages do not have lines; this is designed to allow your child to use his larger muscles as he is learning how to form the letters. Once your student knows how to form each letter, additional challenge will be given during the final lessons to write the letters on manuscript lines; but for the initial lessons in this book, he may write his letters anywhere on the page.)

Encourage your child to look closely at the letters he has written, point out the one that he thinks is best, and circle it. Choosing the best letter for himself will help your child develop a habit of giving his best effort and evaluating his own work.

3. Review a letter previously learned.

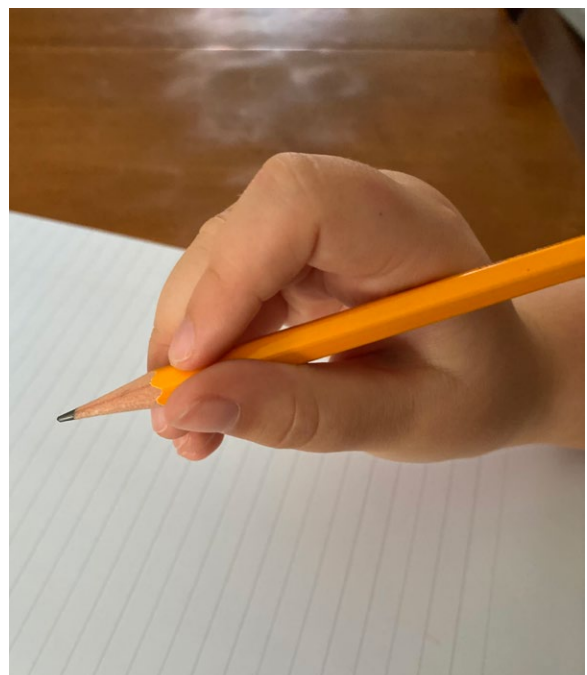
After your child has learned a letter or two, the new-letter lessons will include a step asking him to write previously-learned letters. If he needs help remembering a letter, draw one on the slate to remind him of how it looks. If he needs more practice with it, let him use the sand tray and the slate before writing the letter on the page.

Try to end each lesson on a good note, celebrating an achievement, no matter how small. Keep your standards high, but find something that your child did well, even if it is only one stroke.

How to Hold a Pencil

Your child should hold the slate pencil in the same way as a graphite pencil.

1. Make a fist.
2. Hold out your thumb and first two fingers.
3. Touch the pads of your thumb and two fingers in a pincher grip.
4. Insert a pencil where the thumb and fingers meet.
5. Slide your middle finger slightly down so it touches the pencil on the side of the finger rather than on the tip. The thumb and two fingers should form a tripod, holding the pencil in the middle.



Lesson 1: Introduce the Slanted Stroke

1. Observe the stroke.

This is called the slanted stroke. What do you notice about it? (Give your child time to express his own thoughts. Supply words as he needs them in order to help him give a description that satisfies him and to gently expand his vocabulary. For example, if he says, “It goes like this” [holding his hand at a slant] “rather than like this” [holding his hand straight up and down], you might say, “Yes, it is slanted” [holding your hand at a slant] “rather than vertical” [holding your hand straight up and down]. Or if he says, “It doesn’t do this” [drawing a wavy line in the air], you might reply, “That’s right, it’s straight, not wavy.”)

It looks like the line is leaning. How much would you say it’s leaning: a lot or just a little? Does it remind you of anything in the house or the yard?

2. Watch a demonstration.

We can use the slanted stroke to create many letters. Let’s draw it.

Here’s how to draw it (demonstrate on the slate):

1. Start at the top.
2. Draw down and slightly to the left until you reach the bottom. Make sure it is leaning forward just a little.

3. Practice drawing the stroke.

Now it’s your turn to draw a slanted stroke in the sand tray: How is it similar to the model? How is it different?

Does any part need to be corrected?

Now you may draw a slanted stroke on the slate.

4. Write the stroke.

Use a pencil to see if you can write a slanted stroke on page 9.

Write three more slanted strokes, some tall and some short.



Lesson 3: Introduce **T**

You may want to review How to Teach the Letters on pages 6 and 7 before you begin.

1. Observe the letter.

What is this letter called? Can you think of an animal name that starts with this letter?

What do you notice about the letter? Do you see the slanted stroke and the horizontal stroke?

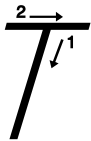
Which stroke is on top? Which one is on the bottom?

2. Watch a demonstration.



Use the diagram or the video at simplycm.com/slanted-cap-t to make sure you are demonstrating the letter correctly.

Here's how to draw a capital *T*:



1. Start at the top and draw a slanted stroke down to the bottom.
2. Pick up your pencil and place it to the left of the slanted stroke. Draw a horizontal stroke that sits on top of the slanted stroke and touches it in the center.

3. Practice drawing the letter.

It's your turn to draw a capital *T* in the sand tray: How is your letter similar to the model? How is it different? Are both sides of the horizontal stroke even, with the slanted stroke in the middle of it?

Does any part need to be corrected?

Now you may draw a capital *T* on the slate.

Lesson 4: Write **T**

1. Practice drawing the letter.

Do you remember how to draw a capital *T*? Draw one in the sand tray.

Does any part need to be corrected?

Now you may draw one on the slate.

2. Write the letter.

Use a pencil to write four capital *T*s on page 13. Circle your best one.

T

Lesson 33: Review All Diagonal Letters

Play: Here's a Word

Point out the seven Diagonal Letters—*A, V, W, M, N, Y, Z*—at the top of page 47.

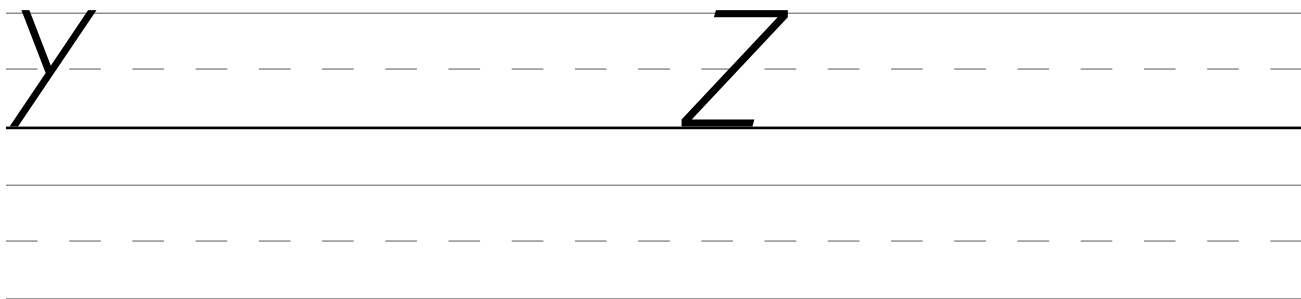
Explain that you will say a word and your child should find the letter that the word begins with. Once your child has found the corresponding letter for the word, he should write it on the page.

Choose and say four of the following words, one at a time:

- Apple
- Mouse
- Nice
- Vacuum
- Water
- Yarn
- Zoo

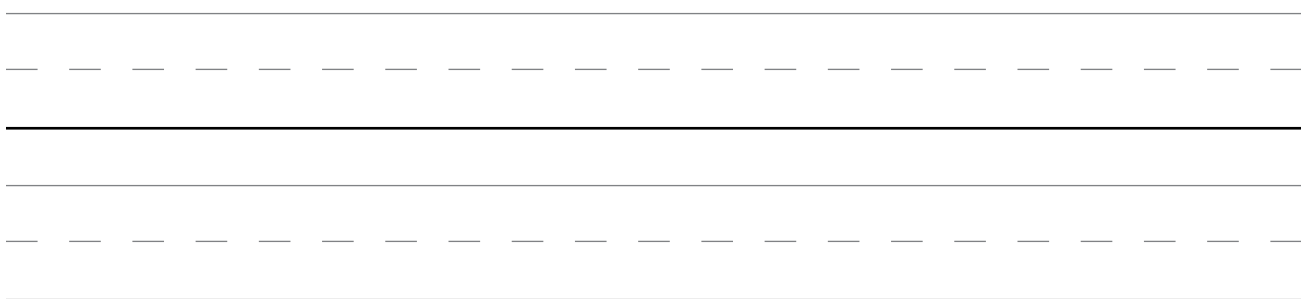
A V W M N Y Z

Lesson 72: Y Z and Name on Lines



My name is

Write your child's name on the first set of lines as a model for him to copy.



What's Next

Now that your student knows how to write all of the capital letters, he's ready to learn the lowercase letters and to write words. We recommend that you progress to that step when your student is reading on at least a first-grade level.

The Charlotte Mason Handwriting Series: Slanted Print (D'Nealian style) will continue the gentle interactive lessons you enjoyed with *Slanted Capitals*.

***Slanted Handwriting* (D'Nealian style)**

Capitals Course → Print Course → Cursive Course

ABC

print

Cursive