Step by step language instructions for teaching handwriting:

1. Show students the Phonogram Flash Card of the targeted letter.
2. Say the sound(s) found on the back of the flashcard.
3. Ask students to repeat the sound(s).
4. Show students how the phonogram appears in cursive. Compare it to the bookface version.
5. Using the LOE Whiteboard, demonstrate how to write the first step of the letter while saying the complete instructions aloud. (You may use either your pointer finger or a marker.)
6. Ask the students to demonstrate the motion and repeat the directions aloud.
7. Demonstrate the first and second steps while saying the instructions aloud.
8. Ask the students to repeat the motions while rotating the directions. (Continue in this manner until all the steps have been reinforced.)
9. Ask the students to repeat forming the letter while saying the directions aloud 3–5 times.
10. Model the letter using the shortened bold instructions. Emphasize the rhythm. End by saying the sound(s) made by the letter.
11. Ask the students to model correct formation 3–5 times while stating the shortened directions followed by the sound(s).

Rhythm of Handwriting

Lowercase Letters

Swing Letters

- Swing up to the midline, down to the baseline, pick up the pencil, dot.
- Swing tall to halfway between the midline and the top line, down to the baseline, pick up the pencil, cross at the baseline.
- Swing up to the midline, down to the baseline, swing up to the midline, down to the baseline.
- Swing up to the midline, scoop around, touch, glide.
- Swing up to the midline, drop down halfway below the baseline, swoop, pick up the pencil, dot.
- Swing up to the midline, drop down halfway below the baseline, slide up to the midline, circle around to the baseline, touch, glide.
- Swing up to the midline, dip, down to the baseline.
- Swing up to the midline, down to the baseline, swing up to the midline, down to the baseline, swing up to the midline, dip connector at the midline.

Swing Letters with Modified Directions

- Curve up to the midline, roll back around to the baseline, swing up to the midline, down to the baseline.
- Curve up to the midline, roll back around to the baseline, swing up to the midline, down to the baseline.
- Curve up to the midline, roll back around to the baseline, swing up to the midline, drop down halfway before the baseline, swoop.

Swing and Drop Letters

- Curve up to the midline, roll back around to the baseline, swing up to the midline, drop down halfway before the baseline, swoop.