

# Kids Handwrite™

**Kids Handwrite™ - Teaching Handwriting to Young Children: A Resource for Teachers and Parents** is a partnering project between volunteers from the Bow Valley Calligraphy Guild (BVCG) and Hetty Roessingh, PhD (Professor Emerita, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary).

Many thanks to the Bow Valley Calligraphy Guild members who generously contributed their time, expertise, and creative talents to this project: Sharon Fahey (Handwriting Project Committee organizer), Renate Worthington (Italic print and cursive script subject matter expert), Marge Worman (Elementary teacher review and feedback), Olympia Lau (Part I - Layout and Design) and Adrienne Waller (Parts II and III - Design, Content and Creative development).



The project was undertaken in response to the need for learning resource material to support handwriting programs in elementary schools and homeschooling.

The BVCG's work on the Resource was motivated by our love of handwriting and our recognition of the many benefits of language by hand. Failure to develop children's written literacy will rob them of an essential skill set for personal and academic success. Handwriting is crucial for children's cognitive development. Digital literacy, while also a requirement in today's school curriculum, does not replace legacy formats of literacy learning.

Handwriting is not an end in itself. Gone are the days of 'presentation effects.' Children need to develop functional/useful, legible, and fluent handwriting. The outcome requires direct instruction that is developmentally progressive and sustained from Kindergarten to Grade Three.

The print and cursive style taught in this Resource is a monoline version of Italic – a formal writing style, not to be confused with the "italic" font on computers. The advantage of the Italic script is that the same letter forms are used in the print and cursive versions, making it easier for children to advance from printing to handwriting.

Although geared for K to Grade 3, the exercises in Part III of the Resource will help older children and adults improve their printing and handwriting skills.

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The Resource is available online at BVCG Website: <http://www.bvcg.ca/p/kids-handwrite.html>

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