
PACT PROGRESS

The newsletter of Parents and Children Together



Volume 3

2006

The 2006 year is off to a great start with the arrival of our PACT manual "Reading is NOT Enough!" This 450 page book outlines the PACT program and is filled with practical information. The basic premise of the book is that if children learn, and adults go back and relearn, the fundamental academic basics to the point of *mastery*, they will become **confident, independent** learners. Some of these basics include: penmanship, sight words, phonics, structure in writing, math basics, and comprehension. "Reading is NOT Enough!" is a valuable resource for all educators and is useful for therapeutic, remedial, and enrichment purposes. It is excellent for homeschoolers' and makes a great gift from grandparents.

Table of contents for Reading is Not Enough

assessments, teaching material, teaching procedures, games, questions and comments, timetables

Chapter 1 - Evaluation - *Have I mastered the basics?*

Chapter 2 - Mastering Penmanship - *Do people want to read my writing?*

Chapter 3 - Mastering Sight Words - *Speed and accuracy are needed!*

Chapter 4 - Mastering Concept Words - *Basic comprehension concept words*

Chapter 5 - Mastering Phonetics - Key Sounds - *Primary decoding tools*

Chapter 6 - Mastering Phonetics - Alphabet Team Mastery - *What are my choices?*

Chapter 7 - Mastering Phonetics - Word Endings - *The final touches*

Chapter 8 - Mastering Phonemes - Sound Discrimination - *Improve your ear!*

Chapter 9 - Mastering Basic Spelling Rules - *Good spelling is impressive!*

Chapter 10 - Mastering Syllables - *Become a superb word decoder!*

Chapter 11 - Mastering Irregular Verbs - *A must for ESL students!*

Chapter 12 - Mastering Basic Sentence Openers - *There are more than subject openers!*

Chapter 13 - Mastering Basic Sentence Dress-Ups - *Add colour to your sentences!*

Chapter 14 - Mastering the Narrative Story Model - *Tell a good story!*

Chapter 15 - Mastering the Essay Model - *End the temptation to plagiarize!*

Chapter 16 - Mastering Comprehension - *Making sure I understand what I read.*

Chapter 17 - Mastering Math Basics - *Overcome the fear of solving word problems.*

Chapter 18 - Theme approach - *Mastering the basics through themes I enjoy.*

Chapter 19 - Timetables - *Record keeping promotes motivation and accountability.*



 Mastering Education Basics
for Parents and Children Together 

A Letter from our Founder and Director



Mastering Penmanship through Motif Writing

“Thoughts disentangle themselves when they pass through your fingertips.” - Dawson Trotman

Why Motif Writing?

Research is supporting the idea that children with learning difficulties in language have not established hemispheric specialization in which one side of the brain becomes dominant and gives direction and order to the brain's activities. This does not mean that the cause of a specific learning problem is because of a lack of hemispheric specialization, but, rather, suggests that this lack is an important part of the problem. **“If hemispheric specialization has not occurred by age seven, a child will have learning difficulties and not perform to their full potential”** (Taylor, 1997). As synapses are developed, students are able to do tasks which require crossing the midline (center line). 80 % of our intelligence is developed before the age of 8.

Thus, PACT (Parents and Children Together) has incorporated Motif Writing as one of its basic techniques to help students establish hemispheric specialization. Beautiful penmanship skills are also established and students learn how to **both print and write neatly and quickly**. Handwriting improves as both large and intricate hand movements are practiced in Motif Writing. Visual-motor integration will improve as children learn to transfer what they see to what they write. (e.g. spelling). Spatial perception and organization will also become clearer as children learn how their hand movements affect size, neatness, and the use of space (map work).

Try this:

Sitting down, make clockwise circles with your right foot. While doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand or make counter clockwise circles with your right hand. *What direction is your foot going now?* This should help give us a little understanding of how difficult learning is. When we learn we are training brain cells. Just as we train our muscles by exercising them, so, also, we must exercise our brain cells. Repetition and practice are needed to master education basics with **100% MASTERY. This leads to academic excellence!**

Motif Writing - Warm - Ups (everyone)

- Begin each session with the figure eights. Do each three times. Say the directional words as you go

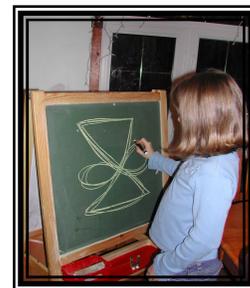
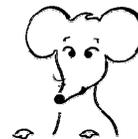
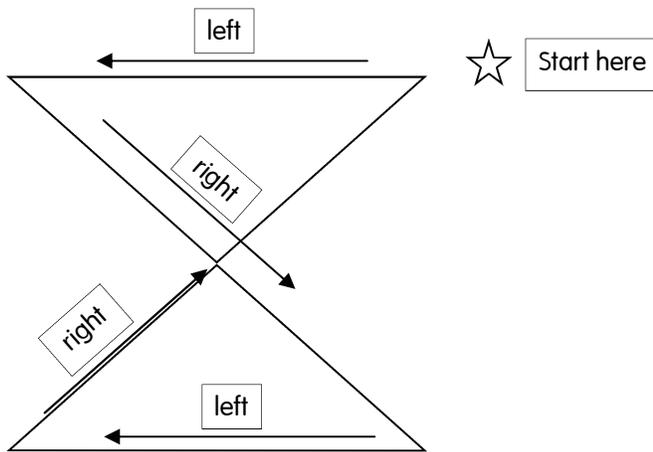
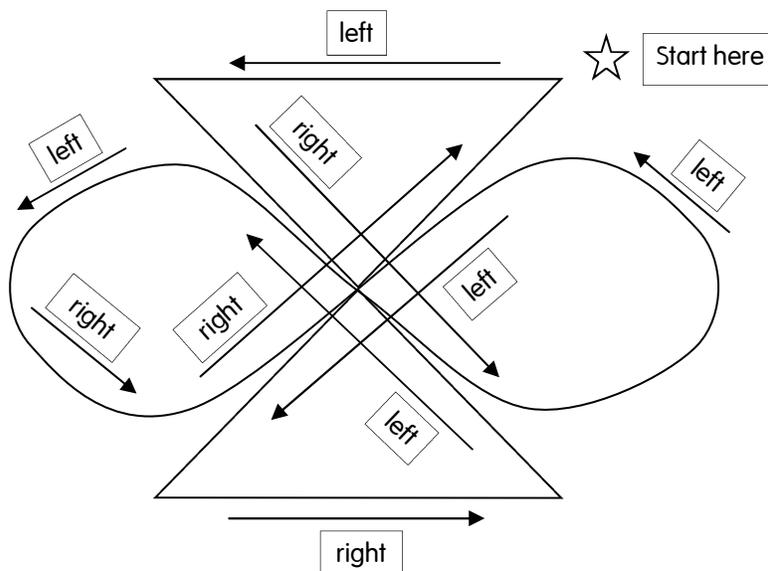
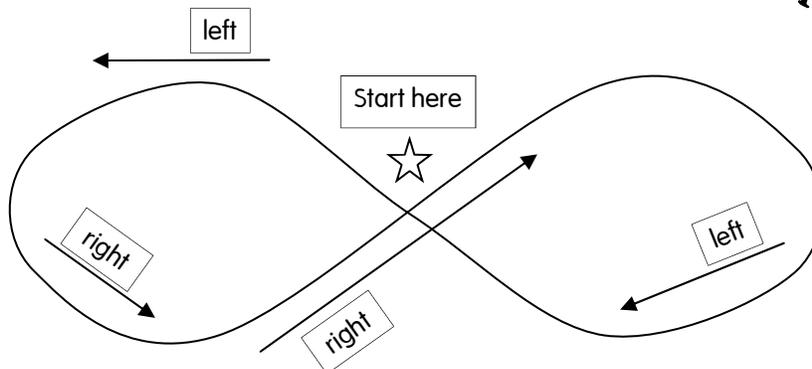


Figure 8's Warm-Ups

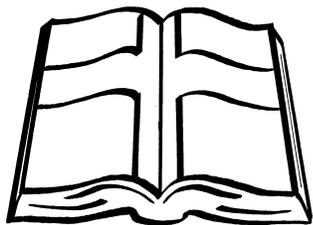


Why is penmanship important?

Ryan Arnott, an artist from Regina, Saskatchewan, believes his interest in becoming an artist began as a child when he was learning to "draw" the alphabet letters. "Each letter is a drawing in itself." Have your children make a drawing using letters of the alphabet in both manuscript and cursive alphabets. Make a frame and display their artwork.



Bible Alphabet Mastery



Bb

Cast all your anxiety on Him
because he cares for you.
1Peter 5:7

The Bible Alphabet

A - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find.
Matthew 7:7

B - Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

C - Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

Bible Alphabet Suggestions:

- Review the letters Aa, Bb bible verses:
- Trace the verses with gel pens.
- Write the "Bb" bible verse on a chalkboard. Repeat the verse while you rub out the words one by one. Soon you will be able to say the entire verse.
- Review these verses each day. Any words you do not know you can add to your personal spelling box.
- Notice the yellow color used to trace the March Bible verse. We now have red, yellow, orange. (ROY) The children will learn the colours of the rainbow as we make the pattern.

Teaching Idea: Cut the words out individually. Students will then put them in the correct order. Some children like to use a stop watch and improve their time.

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1 Peter Him you He