

## Cursive Boards

Waseca Biome's Cursive Boards includes 5 chalk boards for lettering practice (with a storage box), a set of cards (with a storage box), and worksheets for cursive practice. Letters are grouped together in "stroke families" and each cursive letter has a story that goes with it to help the child remember the motions for each stroke. The included card set features these stories for individual practice. Waldorf education uses this method of storytelling very efficiently in their elementary program to provide an emotional anchor for the child's memory.

### Why Cursive?

Cursive writing is actually easier for young children to learn:

- All of the letters begin in the same place and go in the same direction unlike print letters that may begin at 4 or more different points and take different directions from that point. Directionality and spatial orientation are one of the major challenges of writing.
- The letters that form a word are linked together in the same way as the sounds are blended. Spacing between words happens naturally.
- The letters for "b" and "d" are very different, eliminating some of the confusion that arises with the print letters.

### Up and Down Stroke Family

This family likes to jump straight up.

*t*

Tony jumped straight up very high and came straight back down. He put his arms out to the side and said "t."

*i*

Isabel was a lot shorter than Tony. She jumped straight up, but not as high as Tony jumped, and came straight back down. She reached up and left a dot to show how high she jumped.

*r*

Robby jumped straight up onto a bridge and came down on the other side.

*u*

Uncle said he could jump up and onto a bridge. He jumped straight up and came straight back down. He tried again and said, "uh," but he still didn't make it.

*w*

Wanda said she could make it up on that bridge. She jumped straight up and came straight back down. She tried again. She tried a third time and this time she went up and onto the bridge.

s

Sally said "Watch my trick." She went straight up and swung out and then back and forth.

j

Jerry jumped straight up and came straight back down. When he came back down, he fell into a hole and, then, found his way back. He went back and left a dot to show how high he jumped.

p

Patty jumped straight up and came straight back down. She fell into a hole, but landed on her feet and jumped straight back out of the hole. She made it almost as high as she had jumped before and then did a somersault.

### Loop Family

This family likes to make back flips.

e

Ellen goes up and does a back flip and comes back down.

l

Larry goes up higher (because he's taller), does a back flip, and comes back down.

b

Becky goes up, does a back flip, and comes back up to get on the bridge.

h

Henry goes up, does a back flip, comes back down, and, then, he comes back up and jumps over the mountain.

k

Kelly goes up, does a back flip, and comes back down. She comes back up and jumps over the mountain, and, then, she tucks it in and kicks it out.

f

Fred goes up, does a back flip, comes back down, falls in a hole and finds his way out.

### Hump Family

This family likes to jump over the mountains.

n

Nancy goes up over the mountain, lands on her feet, and, then, jumps over the next mountain.

m

Monsieur goes up over the mountain, lands on his feet, jumps over the next mountain, lands on his feet, and, then, jumps over another mountain.

v

Violet goes up over the mountain, then down in the valley, and up again to get on the bridge.

y

Yoda goes up over the mountain, then down in the valley and jumps up. He comes back down into a hole and finds his way out.

*x*

Xavier goes up over the mountain and down in the valley. He comes back to wipe out his tracks so no one can follow him.

*z*

Zelma goes up over the mountain and comes down the other side. She stops a moment to decide which way to go and jumps down in a hole and finds her way out.

### **C Family**

This family goes over the hill in a car.

*c*

Carl gets in his car and goes up the hill. As he gets to the top and is going down the other side, he has to stop and put on the brakes because the bridge is gone. He has to back up and come back around another way.

*a*

Alice gets in her car and goes up the hill. As she gets to the top and is going down the other side, she has to stop and put on the brakes because the bridge is gone. She has to back up and come back around another way (just like Carl did) except that Alice is curious and she goes up to check it out from the other side. Then she goes on her way.

*o*

Oscar gets in his car and goes up the hill. As he gets to the top and is going down the other side, he has to stop and put on the brakes because the bridge is gone. He has to back up and come back around another way. He goes to check it out from the other side and jumps onto another bridge.

*d*

Dana gets in her car and goes up the hill. As she gets to the top and is going down the other side, she has to stop and put on the brakes because the bridge is gone. She has to back up and come back around another way. She checks it out from the other side and jumps straight up and comes straight back down.

*g*

Gail gets in her car and goes up the hill. As she gets to the top and is going down the other side, she has to stop and put on the brakes because the bridge is gone. She has to back up and come back around another way. She checks it out from the other side and falls into a hole, but she finds her way out.

*q*

Quincy gets in his car and goes up the hill. As he gets to the top and is going down the other side, he has to stop and put on the brakes because the bridge is gone. He has to back up and come back around another way. He checks it out from the other side and falls into the same hole as Gail. He finds another way out.