

Why Cursive

- 1 Cursive is a more natural and comfortable way of writing. The hand is lighter in the flowing movement and does not tire easily. When adults write quickly, letters naturally connect together. When a young child (1- 2 years) uses a writing instrument, the first marks he makes are circles that are continuous and connected without lifting his tool.
- 2 The first way one learns becomes the reference for later learning. There are many children and adults who never make the transition from manuscript to cursive. The longer we wait to teach cursive the more laborious it is for the child. On the other hand younger children are more receptive and cursive becomes a habit with them.
- 3 A child who knows cursive can read both cursive and print with no difficulty. But the child knowing only print is confined to manuscript alone.
- 4 Letter reversals are less likely due to the larger contrast between the letters in cursive. Letters such as b and d or p and q are easily distinguished in cursive. Experts suggest children with dyslexia have more success with cursive rather than print.
- 5 Letter formation when writing is more clear because all cursive letters have a definite consistent beginning (on the bottom left) and end without the need to lift the writing instrument with a few exceptions such as j i t etc.
- 6 The young child is within the parameters of the sensitive period for small detail, for refinement of movement. Cursive writing allows the child to enjoy the process of writing rather than become frustrated with the finished product of a perfectly formed letter. The goal is not to have the child form letters perfectly at this young age but rather to strengthen, refine, and control the muscles in the hand in preparation for future writing. The movements of cursive provide this coordination and control more efficiently than print movements.
- 7 Children are attracted to beautiful things, this includes writing. Cursive is has become more of an art form of writing that the children are attracted to. Cursive writing helps the child develop pride in his efforts, forces him to slow down and take his time to concentrate and develop an appreciation the uniqueness of the human invention of the written hand.
- 8 If that still does not convince you that cursive is a natural part of the child's development here is another reason. Research has discovered that cursive writing helps form synaptic connections in the brain. The natural flow of cursive mimics the flow of neurons. The constant flow of the letters allows the brain to form full connections rather than a start stop start stop pattern when writing print letters. For more information on the benefits of cursive here are some links to review

<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/04/30/should-schools-require-children-to-learn-cursive/the-benefits-of-cursive-go-beyond-writing>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/memory-medic/201308/biological-and-psychology-benefits-learning-cursive>