

Why teach cursive?

Neuro-Motor

- Takes advantage of all 3 neural pathways.
- Some kids have better cursive than printing due to using a different neural circuit—legibility is critical in life.
- Uses fewer muscles.
- Spacing between words is more obvious.
- All the letters start on the line.
- Fewer starts and stops.
- Reduces b/d reversals.
- Some evidence that learning is improved with cursive over print.

Socio-Emotional

- Improves self-confidence and feelings of accomplishment.
- Reduces self-consciousness at not being proficient at writing it or reading it.
- Prevents an additional area of disability.
- Looks grown up.
- Many kids like the flow.
- More artistic.
- When kids say they hate cursive, it's often because they have not had enough direct instruction and practice—often they like it better in the end.

Practical

- If you can't write it, you probably can't read it!
- It's faster than printing.
- Because of internet plagiarism, many teachers require in-class essays and assignments to be written by hand.
- Global competition—inability to write in cursive can be perceived as poorer quality education.
- Writing is more effective than typing for learning.

Why not? Is there research supporting not teaching it?

Arguments against cursive:

It's archaic. We do everything on keyboards. They don't use it after 3rd grade.