

Popular Writing Program Offers App

BY HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS

➔ **AT THE REQUEST OF** many OTs and parents, Handwriting Without Tears has just released an app for their well-known handwriting program. Most OTs are familiar with the program's "wet, dry, try" multisensory method of writing and the grouping of letters in developmentally appropriate stages of learning along with the teaching of straight lines first followed by curves and diagonals. The program is also known for helping in the prevention of reversals by the grouping of letters that start on the left side of the chalkboard or square block and at the top.

The Handwriting Without Tears app has a voice that guides users. A magic piece of chalk or a sponge first demonstrates the strokes and the user is then prompted to take a turn. If the user does not perform the stroke correctly, the voice encourages the user and says "lets try again" until the user masters the stroke.

The app has a four-user capacity currently. As the user completes each letter in the section called "winning order," a star is earned. After three stars, a letter card is given with naming of the letter and its picture that starts with that letter.

This app includes only upper case letters and numbers 0-9, which is in line with the

Handwriting Without Tears program belief that these skills should be taught first as developmentally appropriate.

This app is only for iPad 2 and later versions. It is currently only an iPad app and is not available for android users. Sold by No Tears Learning, Inc., the app is a copyright of Handwriting Without Tears. It is rated for use with children 4 years and older. The cost of the app is \$4.99 and it can be found in the education category in the iTunes app store.

As always, remember that apps are just one of the tools in our OT toolbox and are



not intended to replace the other modalities that we use. This is an exciting release and I look forward to using it as yet another multisensory method in my use of the Handwriting Without Tears Program. I look forward to possible upgrades such as an increase in the user data collection capacity and other potential updates. ■

Reviewer Angelia Wood, OTR/L, is a therapist with Davie County Schools in Mocksville, NC.

Rating of Function for Occupational Therapists	Number of Stars out of 5
Ease of use	★★★★★
Relevance to OT	★★★★★
Frequency of projected use	★★★★★
Potential for upgrade with improvements	★★★★★
Usefulness for therapeutic intervention with fine motor skills	★★★★★
Usefulness for therapeutic intervention with visual motor skills	★★★★★
Usefulness for therapeutic intervention with handwriting	★★★★★
Usefulness as OT evaluation tool	★★★
Relevance for use with progress monitoring	★★★★

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