Handwriting Rules Checklist: Posture, Grip, Spacing, and Letter Formation

Worked example / complete source key

A child writes the sentence 'the dog ran' on lined paper. The letters 't', 'h', and 'd' are tall; 'g' descends below the baseline; 'a', 'e', 'o', 'r', 'n' are x-height letters. The child writes 'thedogran' with no word spaces. Check the sample against the spacing and letter-rule checklist and suggest two fixes.

Answer: Spacing check: the words 'the', 'dog', and 'ran' run together. Fix: use the finger-space convention between words. Letter-rule check: confirm that x-height letters reach the midline consistently, tall letters rise above the midline, and the descender in 'g' goes below the baseline without overlapping the next line. If the descender overlaps, increase line spacing. Also check that 'd' and 'b' (if present) are distinct. Two fixes: add finger spaces between words, and adjust line spacing if the descender overlaps.