Kindergarten Writing Grid: Letter-Placement Cells for Early Handwriting

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

A cell is 30 mm wide and 40 mm tall. The midline is drawn 15 mm above the baseline. A child writes lowercase o so that it touches the baseline and stops at the midline. Does the letter follow the convention?

Answer: Yes.

Reason: Lowercase o is a small letter. Its body should sit between the baseline and the midline. Touching the baseline and stopping at the midline matches the rule.

Check: Measure from the baseline to the top of the letter. It should be about 15 mm, matching the midline height.

Task 2

In the same cell, a child writes lowercase b. The letter starts 10 mm above the midline and touches the baseline. Is the placement acceptable?

Answer: Yes, if the letter is legible.

Reason: Lowercase b is a tall letter, so it should rise above the midline. Starting above the midline and touching the baseline follows the convention. The exact height above the midline can vary with style.

Check: Check that the letter touches the baseline and that its top is above the midline. Then check that the letter can be read as b.

Task 3

A child writes lowercase g in a cell. The body sits between the baseline and the midline, and the tail goes below the baseline. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes.

Reason: Lowercase g is a descending letter. Its body should sit between the baseline and the midline, and its tail should go below the baseline. This matches the convention.

Check: Check that the body touches the baseline and stops at the midline, and that the tail crosses below the baseline.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

A child writes lowercase e so that it floats 5 mm above the baseline and stops at the midline. The letter is legible. Does it meet the rubric?

Answer: No.

Reason: The rubric requires the letter to touch the baseline. A floating letter does not meet the placement rule even if it is legible.

Check: Look at the bottom of the letter. If there is a gap between the letter and the baseline, the placement check fails.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The letter touches the baseline.
- [ ] Small letters stop at or below the midline.
- [ ] Tall letters rise above the midline.
- [ ] Descending letters go below the baseline.
- [ ] The letter is legible and can be read by an unfamiliar adult.
- [ ] Any legible letter style is accepted if placement is correct.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?