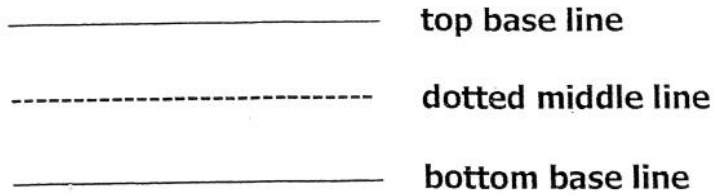
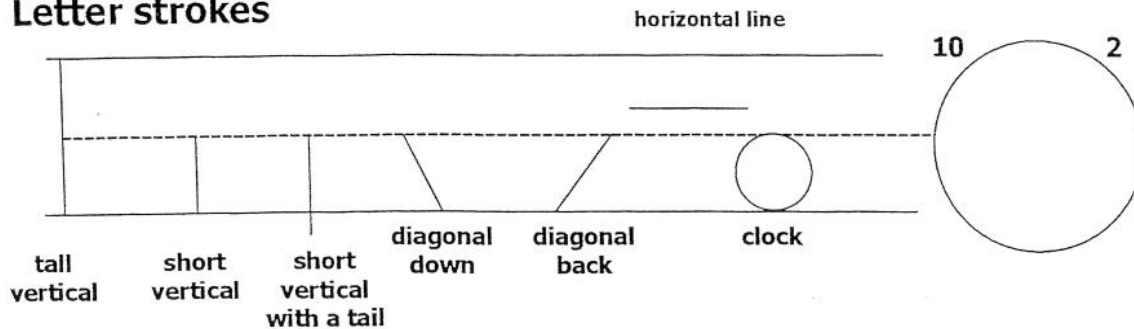


## Names for the Lines



## Letter strokes



### Please note:

- Names of the practice strokes are as follows from left to right: tall vertical, short vertical, short vertical with a tail, diagonal down, diagonal back, horizontal line, and clock.
- The clock (circle) is made by starting at the 2, then curving up and around to the 10. Curve down to the bottom base line, then curve back up to the 2.
- The rest of the practice strokes begin at the top base line and the pencil is pulled down to the bottom base line.
- The horizontal line is made in the direction we read and write (left to right).
- The practice strokes sit close together on the line.



The beginning of our program helps your child to develop the necessary fine motor skills, hand eye coordination, and left to right and top to bottom direction for reading and writing. The practice strokes assigned for homework will ready your child for the teaching of the graphemes. Below are some key points to consider when helping your child with homework.

### **Pencil Position**

Your child should be holding the pencil between their thumb and middle finger, where the paint and wood meet. The pencil point needs to remain visible so that your child is able to see what the pencil point is doing. Monitor to ensure that your child does not curl the hand over top of their pencil.

### **Letter Strokes**

It is easier to learn and practice the letter strokes correctly than to try and unlearn bad habits. All vertical lines (l) are made from the top to the bottom of a line, and all horizontal lines are made from the left to the right (-). This is the direction we read and write. All circles are made beginning just below the dotted middle line moving toward the left, and just gently touching the lines. Remind your child to not go above or below the lines we use to guide us.

### **Using the Paper**

The lines on the paper provide guidelines for our printing. There are two key points to remember.

1. Always begin close to the left hand margin, moving left to right, top to bottom.
2. Try to stay between the lines, except for letters with tails (g, j, p, qu, y).

Enclosed is a reference sheet to help review the letter strokes we are using in class.