



## Teacher Tips

### ADJUSTMENTS FOR LEFT-HANDED WRITERS

Suggest to left-handed students that they grip the pencils a bit higher—up to one-half inch farther away from the point than do right-handed students—to gain better control of their writing. Also, many left-handed writers may find it easier to write if their papers are slanted slightly to the right of and parallel to their left forearms.

**POSITIONING** Continue to check students' pencil grips and paper positions for correct form in future handwriting lessons.

## Monitor Progress



### to Differentiate Instruction Formal Assessment

**Penmanship** Note students pencil grip and paper positioning.

#### APPROACHING LEVEL

**IF ...** students are having difficulty,

**THEN ...** have them draw pictures of themselves and assist them with correct forms.

#### ON LEVEL

**IF ...** students could use more practice,

**THEN ...** ask them to draw pictures of their families using the correct forms.

#### ABOVE LEVEL

**IF ...** students are comfortable,

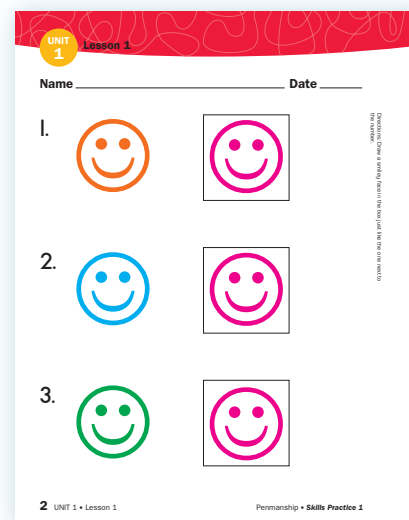
**THEN ...** have them explain to you where to put their papers and how to hold their pencils.

## Penmanship

- ◆ Distribute a sheet of writing paper to each student.
- ◆ Place the Supply Icon for *pencil* on the board or in the **Pocket Chart**. Remind students the pictures tell them what supplies they will need and the order in which they will use them.
- ◆ Ask students to each pick up a pencil and to place them in the hands that they like to use to write and draw. Note which students are right-handed and which are left-handed.
- ◆ Model to students the proper way to hold a pencil: Hold the pencil loosely about one inch above the point, between the thumb and the middle finger. The index finger should rest lightly on top of the pencil. The wrist should be level and just slightly raised from the desk.
- ◆ Next model the proper paper positioning for both left-handed and right-handed students. Explain that the paper should lie straight in front of the writer with the edges parallel to the edges of the desk. The nonwriting hand should be used to hold down the paper. (See the Appendix.)

## Guided Practice

- ◆ Have students open their copies of **Skills Practice 1** to page 2.
- ◆ Have students practice proper pencil and paper positioning as they draw a copy of each smiley face next to the smiley faces on the sheet.
- ◆ Circulate throughout the room to observe each student's technique, pausing to guide any students who are having difficulty with their forms. (Note: Do not correct students' strokes at this point, only their pencil and paper positioning.)



Skills Practice 1, p. 2