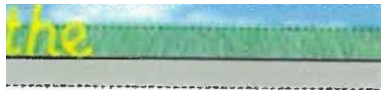


Occupational Therapy Advice for Letter Placement and Orientation to the Line

An effective tool for teaching children how to space and position their letters on the page is to use the 'Sky, grass, mud' tool. This is a very visual tool and so works well with children.

How it works:

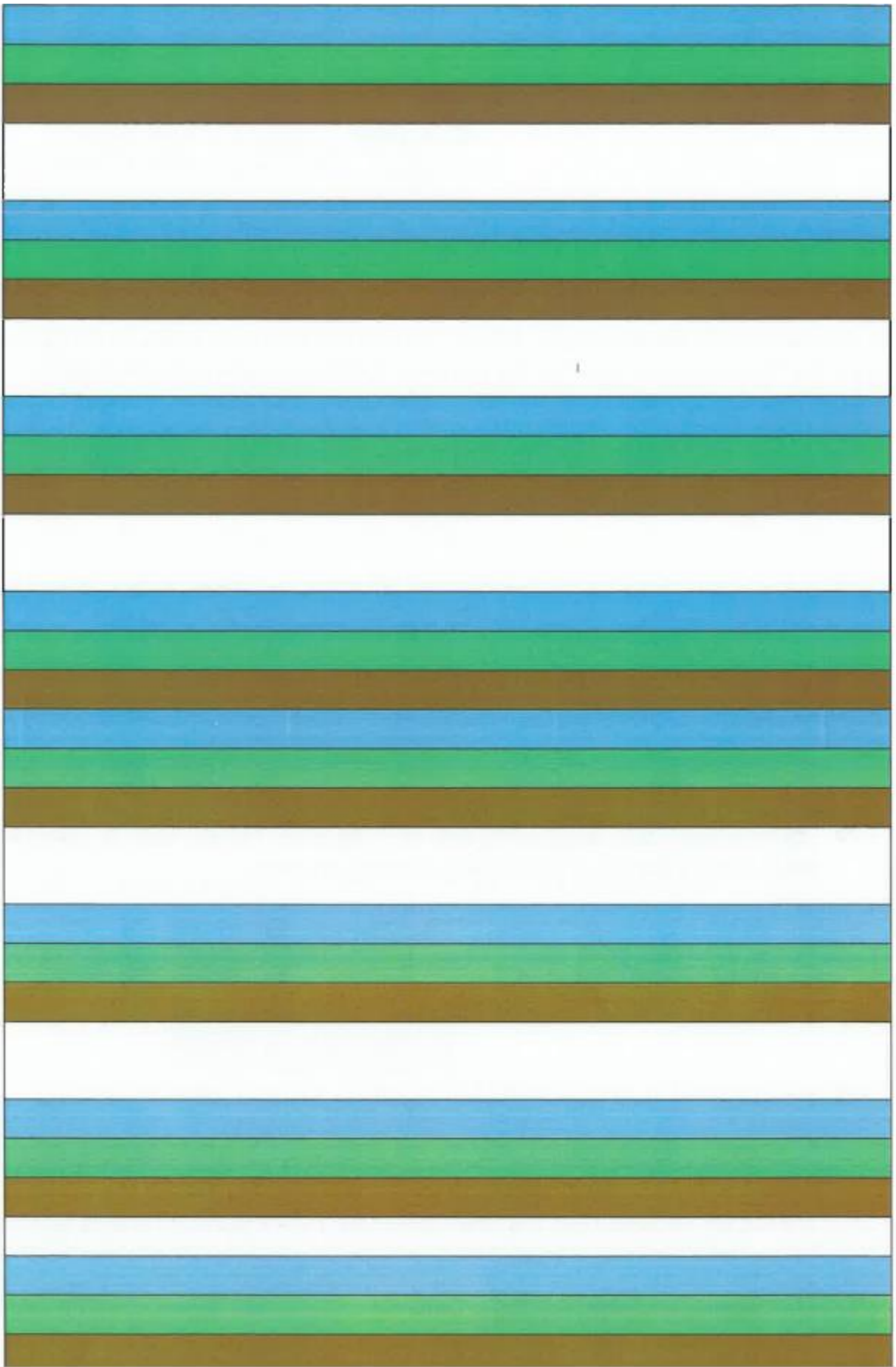
- ❖ All letters start on the green grass. Some letters reach above the grass and into the sky and some letters dip down below the grass and into the mud.
- ❖ In the picture below, we can see that the **tall** letters (ascenders) such as 't' and 'h' reach right up into the sky. So the child needs to bring these above the line.



- ❖ The letters with tails (descenders) such as 'y' dig down into the mud. So, the child needs to bring the tails of these letters down into the mud.



- ❖ This sky, grass, mud template is freely available online to print off and comes in different versions but the principle is always the same. You can get these from www.twinkl.co.uk for example. You can use these as paper or laminated sheets, laminated is particularly good for practising at the start when mistakes might be made and you can just wipe clean and start again. Using a white board pen is good for this. You can make your own word flash cards at home or print some off websites and this can make it into a game. Try using a dice and the child has to roll the dice to see how many times they must practise the word.
- ❖ Attached are some examples of sky, grass, mud templates readily available online. Also included are some specific sheets just for the tall letters and some just for the tail letters, so these can be practised individually, to build confidence.



Practising Letter Placement - Ascenders (Tall letters)

Can you make these letters reach high up into the sky?

b d h k l t



Can you place these words on to the lines below, think about the tall letters?


ball stink hill trick



Practising Letter Placement - Descenders (letters that dig below the line)

Can you make these letters dig down into the mud?

f g j p q y



Can you place these words on to the lines below, think about 'underground' letters?

grass jump fight ping

