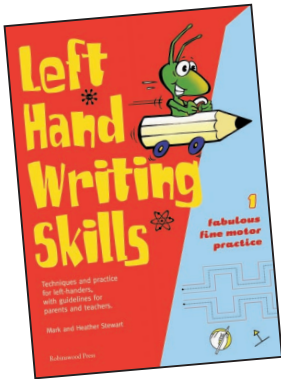


Press Release

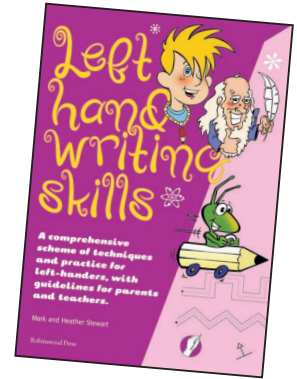
March 2006



Left Hand Writing Skills

Techniques & Practice for Left Handers
by Mark & Heather Stewart

Published by Robinswood Press
in January 2006 at £6.95



The Left Hand Writing Skills series...

"... is a unique, much needed resource which will help left-handed children avoid or overcome many common handwriting difficulties. Highly recommended."

Lauren Milsom – Left-Handers Club

"... provides a structured and attractive course that could help a left-hander to become a competent, confident writer."

National Handwriting Association Journal

New and Unique!

Robinswood Press is delighted to announce the introduction of Left Hand Writing Skills.

Book 1 – 'fabulous fine motor practice'	ISBN 1-869981-766	£6.95
Book 2 – 'funky formation and flow'	ISBN 1-869981-782	£6.95
Book 3 – 'successful smudge-free writing'	ISBN 1-869981-804	£6.95
Combined Edition for Schools:		
Book (mono)	ISBN 1-869981-839	£29.95
CD-ROM (multiple-user/printable)	ISBN 1-869981-855	£35.19

This is a unique series of three practice work-books designed to help – for the first time – left-handed children develop good handwriting skills.

These colourful, highly-illustrated books have been developed to enable parents or other adults to work with their children at home. The series is also available in a combined edition either in book form (mono and photocopyable) for use in schools, or on CD-Rom (printable in colour and mono).

The Left-Handed Handwriting Problem

Most left-handers use everyday items without too many problems, particularly if they have left-handed versions of, for example, scissors or tin openers. Left-handed handwriting, though, can be a real problem...

Left-handers often find difficulty when learning to write and, later, when good handwriting is vital for writing notes, essays or – especially – exams.

Good basic handwriting habits can be formed with practice. Without proper practice – bad habits can arise. Writing which is scrawled or smudgy simply looks untidy, and can make left-handed writers very frustrated with their work. This can lead to low self-esteem and to real under-achievement.

Unfortunately, teachers do not always receive sufficient guidance or training to spot and deal with such problems.

The Left-Hand Handwriting Solution

The 'Left Hand Writing Skills' series, designed to encourage good handwriting habits for left-handed children, was developed by specialists in left hand education – Heather and Mark Stewart.

The series has many left-hand-friendly features:

- ***positioning of words and pictures for easy copying (illustrations in resources for right-handers often get covered up by the left hand writer's hand).***
- ***top-page binding – vertically rather than horizontally – so that the spine does not inhibit free movement of the left hand.***
- ***use of icons on every worksheet which remind students where to place the workbook – and how to hold their pen or pencil correctly.***

Book 1 – '*fabulous fine motor practice*' – helps the student to develop basics such as fine motor control and hand-eye co-ordination, and to develop the correct pencil-grip for letter formation.

Book 2 – '*funky formation and flow*' – takes the student from letter formation through letter joins and on to complete word formation.

Book 3 – '*successful smudge-free writing*' – concentrates on developing a confident and clear handwriting style, now using pen and ink for complete sentence writing in a variety of interesting handwriting contexts.

(The worksheets are also available combined for schools in book and CD formats.)

About the Left Hand Writing Skills Authors

The Left Hand Writing Skills series was written by Mark & Heather Stewart.

In the 1990s **Mark Stewart** won The Honeywell/Sunday Times British Innovation Award for producing “Braille-coded Snooker Balls” and designed “Right Money Gauge” for Visually-impaired people (supplied to HSBC, Bradford & Bingley)

From 1995 to 2000 **Mark and Heather** established a Left-handed resource centre and shop in Worcester. Mark went on to spearhead a campaign to improve the lot of left-handed children within the Education system. He secured a half an hour Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons and produced a Training Video for teachers and parents which is endorsed by the Teacher Training Agency. He started doing talks to various groups on “Left-Handed Children – The Right Way to Help”, in both the UK and the US.

In 2000 he opened the “Formative Fun” shop in Worcester incorporating his Left-hand business which later became known as “Left ‘n’ Write”. He also designed and produced the “Writewell” mat.

Mark has appeared on BBC Midlands TV and Central TV, and has done interviews for both BBC local Radio and Radio 4. **Mark and Heather** together still run the “Left ‘n’ Write” left hand resource service together in Worcester.

Mark Stewart runs a specialist teacher training course for schools, Local Education Authorities and early years practitioners. His guidelines for teaching left-handed children are endorsed by the DfES and have been incorporated into The National Literacy Strategy.

Heather Stewart is a qualified primary teacher.

The entertaining and colourful illustrations are by Fred Chevalier.

For further information and illustrations of the titles please look at the Robinswood Press website **www.robinswoodpress.com**

Mark and Heather Stewart are available for interview and to write articles. For further information about Left Hand Writing Skills, the authors, Mark & Heather Stewart & Robinswood Press please call Sophie Ransom or Suzanne Sangster at Midas Public Relations on 020 7 584 7474 or email sophie@midaspr.co.uk/suzanne@midaspr.co.uk