Verbal Path for the Formation of Letters

Sometimes it helps children to say aloud the directions for "making" a letter. This "verbal path" helps them to understand the directional movement that is essential. In addition, it gives the teacher and child a language to talk through the letter and its features. Here, we suggest language for creating a verbal path to the distinctive features of letters.

Lowercase Letter Formation

👊 — pull back, around, up, and down	n — pull down, up, over, and down
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Uppercase Letter Formation

A — pull down, pull down, and across

pull down, up, around and in, back and around

C — pull back and around

D — pull down, up, and around

E — pull back, down, across, and across

F — pull down, across, and across

H — pull down, pull down, and across

I — pull down, across, and across

J — pull down, curve back, and across

K -- pull down, pull in, and pull out

_ pull down and across

M — pull down, up, in, up, and down

N - pull down, up, in, and up

O — pull back and around

P — pull down, up, and around

Q - pull back and around, and cross

 \mathbb{R} — pull down, up, around, in, and down

S — pull back, in, around, down, and back

T — pull down and across

U — pull down, over, up, and down

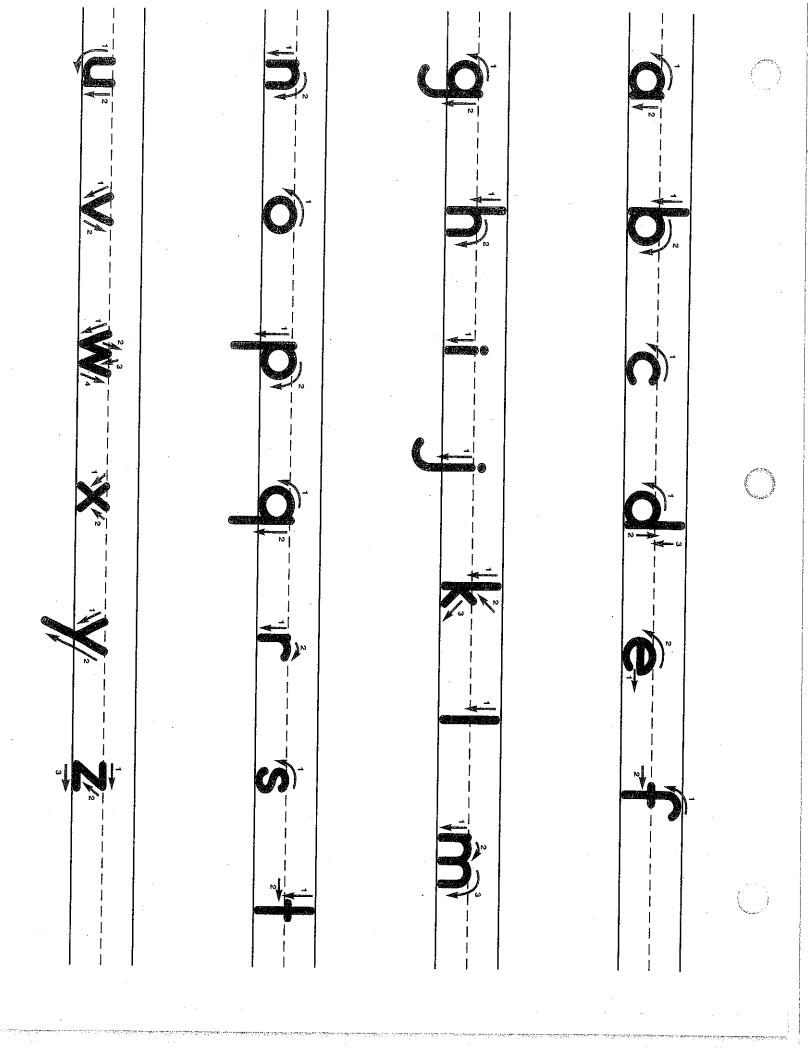
V — down and up

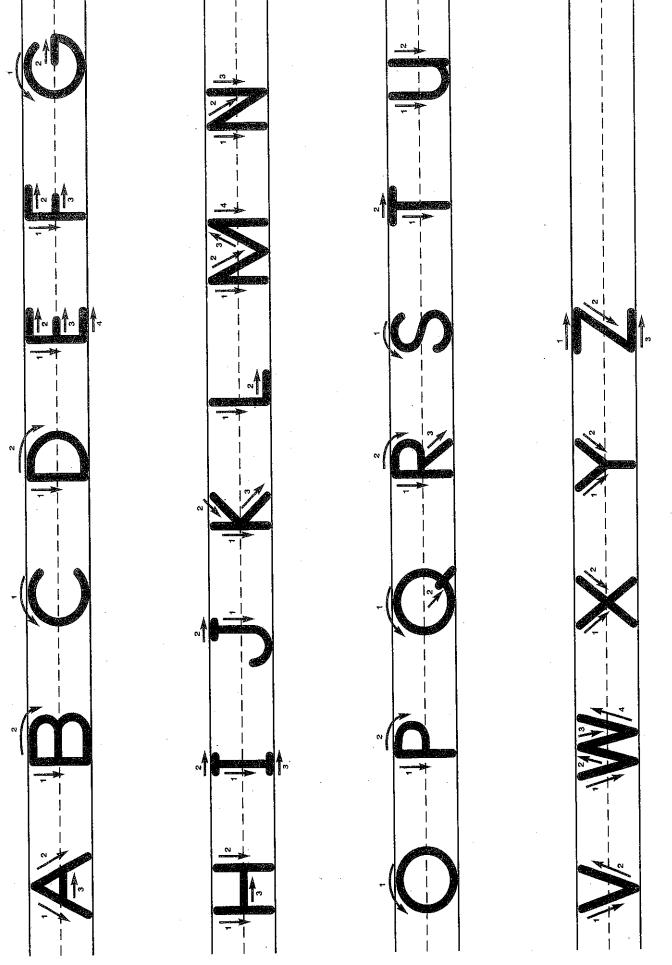
W - down, up, down, and up

X — down and down

Y — pull in, pull in, and down

 ${\sf Z}$ — across, pull in, and across





© 2003 by Gay Su Pinnell and Irene C. Fountas from *Phonics Lessons*Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. This page may be photocopied for single classroom use only.