

Start at the Dot — Support

Start at the Dot teaches children how letters and numbers are formed: where each stroke begins, which way it travels, and what order the strokes go in.

Getting started

Pick a letter, watch the demonstration, then trace it. Start on the green dot and follow the arrow. Each letter is practiced three times, with the guides fading between attempts.

Grown-ups' settings

Tap "Grown-ups" on the letter screen and answer the multiplication question. Inside you can set:

- Writing size — Large, Medium, or Standard. Standard is a true 8.7 mm between baselines, the same as wide-ruled paper.
- How forgiving — how far a stroke may wander from the line before it counts as off the road.
- Finished letters — "Tidy up" redraws each finished stroke neatly. "Freeform" keeps the line exactly as it was drawn and shades the letter green, yellow, or red for how close it was.
- Letter order — A to Z or grouped by stroke family.
- Sound, Apple Pencil handling, display, and the lock itself.

Common questions

Why does the app ignore my finger?

"Pencil only" is on by default. Once an Apple Pencil has touched the screen, fingers and palms are ignored, so a resting hand can't draw. Turn it off under Grown-ups → Apple Pencil.

Why won't a stroke count?

Every stroke must begin on the green dot and carry through to the end. A stroke that stops short is erased so it can be tried again. This is deliberate — half-formed letters are the habit the app exists to prevent.

Which handwriting style does it use?

Vertical manuscript print, in the Zaner-Bloser tradition. If your school teaches D'Nealian, the slants and entry strokes will look different.

Does it need the internet?

No. The app has no network access at all.

Contact

karl.wilson.dev@gmail.com