

Psych Ed

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Mirror writing of letters and numbers e.g. b-d, p-q confusion

These mistakes, if they occur in a child older than six years of age, are due to a developmental delay in the brain's ability to identify the directionality of certain lines. It occurs rarely after the age of eight. If a child has this difficulty, learning to read is extremely difficult, as bread can be seen as dreab.

Provision of a piece of paper which has these letters written in large font will help.

It will be helpful to practice how to write letters and numbers which the child writes in mirror fashion using the hand which does not hold the pencil as an orientation tool.

For example, if the child is right handed, then he/she can be taught that the "stick" of the b is against the "non-pencil" hand (for left handed children it is the other way around).

If the child writes B correctly, he/she could be also taught to always write B and then erase the top bubble if he/she needs b.

Writing numbers in mirror fashion can be addressed using the same strategy.