Long ladder letters: answers and notes

What your child practised: forming l, i, t, u, j and y by starting at the top and going down, and adding dots and lines across last.

Page 1 · Warm up

Every line starts at the dot and goes **down** to the ground.

Page 2 · Try it together

Ticks will vary. Check each letter started at the top.

Page 2 · A. Trace l, i and t

l: start at the sky line, straight down.
i: start at the grass line, down, then the dot.
t: start below the sky line, down with a little curve, then lift and cross on the grass line.

Page 3 · B. Trace and write u, j and y

u: down, round the bottom, up, and down.
j: down past the ground into the roots, curl the tail, then the dot.
y: like u, then down into the roots and curl the tail.

Page 3 · C. Where does it start?

l: the top dot. **t:** the top dot. **u:** the dot at the top left. **j:** the dot on the grass line (not the end of the tail).

Challenge: Yes, it matters. Starting at the top every time teaches your hand one way to make each letter, so writing gets quicker and neater, and it gets ready for joined-up writing later.

Watch out for

- **Starting at the bottom** and pushing up. Put your finger on the start dot and say "top, then down".
- **Dot or line first** on i and t. Say "down line first, dot last", and let your child say it too.
- **Tails sitting on the line** in j and y. Point to the roots: "the tail digs down here".
- **t as tall as l.** t starts a little lower, just below the sky line.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Finger painting:** write ladder letters with a wet finger on a window or with a paintbrush and water outside.
- **Ladder hunt:** spot l, i and t on signs and trace them in the air.
- **In the game:** Chapter 3 moves on to curly caterpillar letters c, o, a, d, g, q, e, s and f.