Curly caterpillar letters: answers and notes

What your child practised: forming c, o, a, d, g, q, e, s and f, starting at the top and curling back round (anticlockwise), with a and d starting with the curl.

Page 1 · Warm up

Each c starts at the dot near the top and curls **back**, over the top, down and round.

Page 2 · Try it together

Ticks will vary. c with a short stick makes **a**; with a tall stick, **d**; closed up, **o**.

Page 2 · A. Trace c, o, a, d, g, q

All six start with the c curl. **a** goes up to the grass and down; **d** up to the sky and down; **g** and **q** go down into the roots (g curls its tail, q flicks).

Page 3 · B. Trace and write e, s, f

e: start in the middle, across, then up, over and round.
s: start like c, then curl back the other way.
f: start below the sky line, curl over and down; lift and cross on the grass line.

Page 3 · C. Where does it start?

d: the dot on the curl, not the top of the stick. **a:** the dot on the curl, not the stick. **e:** the dot in the middle, on the left. **s:** the top dot.

Challenge: No. **d** starts like **c**: curl round first, then go up tall and all the way down. Starting with the stick is how b is made, which is why b and d get muddled. Check the d your child wrote starts on the curl.

Watch out for

- **Curling the wrong way** (clockwise, or from the bottom). Trace a big c in the air together: "over the top and back round".
- **The stick first** in a and d. Say "c first, then the stick".
- **Starting e at the top** like c. Point to the middle: "e starts here and goes across".
- **o made of two halves.** o is one smooth curl that joins up where it started.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Caterpillar walk:** walk a big c shape round the room, then an o. Which way do you turn?
- **Bath or window letters:** write c, a and d with a wet finger, saying "c first".
- **In the game:** Chapter 4 is one-armed robot letters r, n, m, h, b, p and k.