Zigzag letters: answers and notes

What your child practised: forming v, w, x and z with straight, slanting lines, always starting at the top, and drawing both lines of x downwards.

Page 1 · Warm up

Each zigzag starts at the dot on the grass line: down, up, down, up, without lifting.

Page 2 · Try it together

v: **2** sticks · w: **4** sticks · x: **2** sticks · z: **3** sticks

Page 2 · A. Trace v, w, x, z

v: slant down, slant up. **w:** down, up, down, up. **x:** top left down, lift, top right down. **z:** across, slant back, across.

Page 3 · B. Ring the zigzag letters

Ring **v**, **z**, **w** and **x**. (o, c, l and s are not zigzag letters.)

Page 3 · C. The right way

x: tick the **second** one: both lines go down. (In the first, line 2 goes up.)
z: tick the **first** one: it starts at the top left. (The second starts at the bottom.)

Page 3 · D. Trace one, write one

Check each letter starts at its dot, at the top.

Challenge: Yes, it looks that way! v has **2** lines and w has **4**, like two v's side by side. But we write w in one go: down, up, down, up, without lifting the pencil.

Watch out for

- **Starting at the bottom**, especially for the second half of w. Say "start at the top, zig down".
- **A muddled x**, with one line going up. Both lines start at the top and go down.
- **z the wrong way round** (like s). The top line goes across to the right first.
- **Curvy or wobbly lines.** Slow down: straight lines come from slow, steady strokes.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Zigzag walk:** walk a big w across the room or garden, then a z.
- **Finger zigzags:** draw v, w, x and z on each other's hands. Guess the letter.
- **In the game:** Chapter 6 is capital letters, starting at the top.