Leonardo da Vinci was famous for using mirror writing to record his notes and ideas. With just a few materials and a lot of brainpower, your kids will be able to practice this fun technique over and over again!

Make sure to share completed projects and video with us @SurpriseRide.

SUPPLIES
- Pencil
- Paper
- Mirror

AT A GLANCE

Category
Art

Time Needed
20 Minutes

Clean Up

Difficulty Level

FUN FACTS TO EXPLORE WITH YOUR KID

• Experts believe Leonardo da Vinci used mirror writing to prevent smudging caused by writing left handed. Another theory is that Leonardo was making it harder for people to read his notes and steal his ideas.

• Not all languages are written from left to right. Hebrew is written from right to left while traditional Japanese and Chinese are written from top to bottom, starting at the right side of the page.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

• If your little ones are having trouble writing letters backward, have one hand mirror the other hand’s action to help the brain coordinate movements.

WHAT YOUR KID WILL LEARN

• Your little ones will get a deeper look into the life of Leonardo da Vinci and challenge their deductive reasoning skills by writing backward. They’ll love how an ordinary household object can magically decode their secret message.
DID YOU KNOW? TELL A FRIEND

- Leonardo da Vinci was famous for using mirror writing to record his notes and ideas.

- Leonardo was ambidextrous, meaning he was able to write with both hands.

- Experts believed Leonardo used mirror writing to prevent smudging that sometimes happens when someone is writing left handed. Or maybe he was just trying to make it harder for people to read his notes and steal his ideas!

- Not all languages are written from left to right. Hebrew is written from right to left while traditional Japanese and Chinese are written from top to bottom, starting at the right side of the page.

SUPPLIES

- Pencil
- Paper
- Mirror

Are you ready to share your secret message? Send us your photos using @SurpriseRide and let us decode! Don't worry your secret is safe with us.
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Starting from the right side of the page, try to write your name backward. This is challenging and doesn't look right!

2. Try to write your name with the hand you don't normally write with. How does it look? Just think, Leonardo wrote with one hand and sketched with another...at the same time!

3. Now try to write your name AND the letters backward! To check your words, hold your paper up to the mirror. Can you read it? That's the magic of mirror writing!

Rider Tip!

Practice with letters first, then use mirror writing to write notes that you don't want anyone to read! To make it easier, write your note normally first, then write it backward.

Now you're an expert mirror writer just like Leonardo! Use mirror writing to send notes to friends and family, and see if they can solve your mystery writing.