

retrace combination, which is an undercurve, **retrace**, then another undercurve. Explain that the retrace is most often used in three letters—*b*, *v*, and *w*.

At the blackboard the children should practice the combination given in row one. Watch them closely, and be sure they keep an even motion, maintaining the feel of the undercurve stroke. Since this is the first time they are combining three strokes, **they must learn to make a smooth transition from the undercurve to the retrace stroke and from the retrace to the final undercurve.** They should practice this over and over again until they can do it smoothly, accurately, and neatly.

When teaching **the retrace stroke, be sure the children are not making it too long or too short.** If the retrace is too long, it tends to make the letter difficult to identify. If the retrace is too short or nonexistent, a level across (or curve) line will be substituted for the undercurve.

The children should identify the retrace strokes in the letters in row four prior to doing the lesson.

*The stroke combinations in row one should be copied in rows two and three. The sentence in rows five and seven should be copied in slant print in rows six and eight. In row nine the oval, overcurve, undercurve, and slant line should be practiced in the spaces following those strokes.

Practice Sentences

1. Dagon was an idol.
2. God punished those who took the ark.
3. The ark did not belong to them.