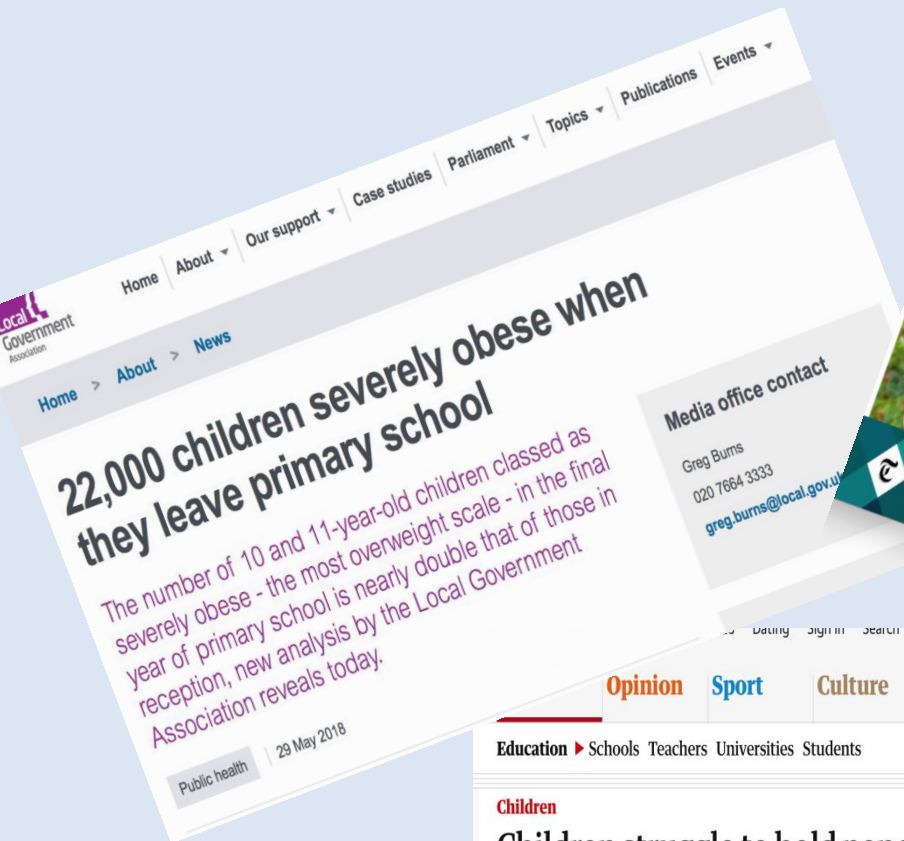


Handwriting



National Picture

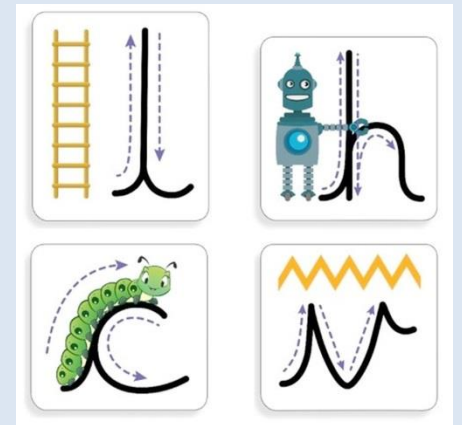


Handwriting

No child wakes up wanting to write illegibly; they want to please you! If they cannot write, it is because there is a fundamental building block from development missing. It is very difficult to correct poor handwriting grip or incorrect letter formation after the age of seven.

Handwriting comes unstuck when:

- Pencil control is weak
- Letter formation is poor
- Cursive handwriting helps muscle memory – kinaesthesiology – and is proven to improving spelling.

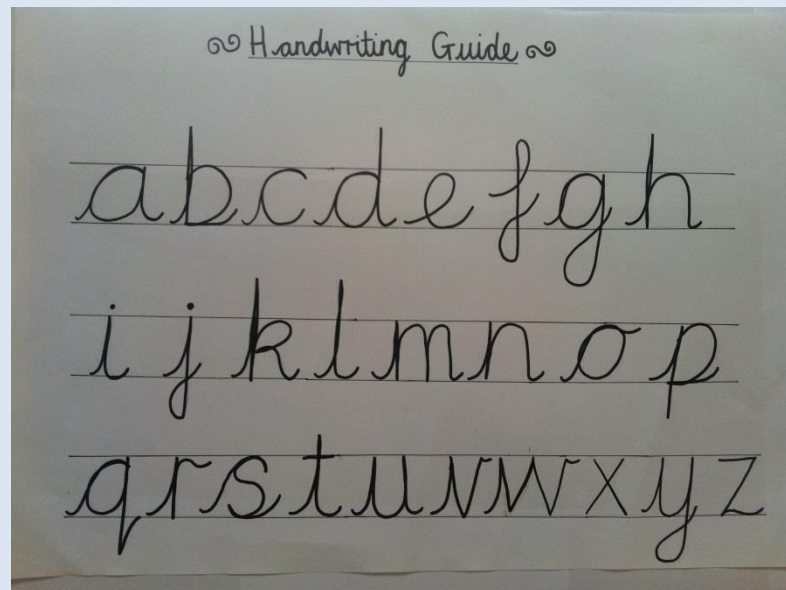


Why is writing so important?

- In school, writing is one way in which children show how much progress they have made in learning what has been taught.
- Writing ability can affect self esteem in older children and adults. Teachers need to be able to read it!
- Children need to have pride in the work they produce and presentation is part of that.
- If we want our children to produce the most imaginative and exciting content, then that is what they need to focus on, rather than thinking about how to form basic letters. Handwriting requires working memory ...
- Handwriting and content separate at first.



What skills and abilities do children need for handwriting?



Discuss

Handwriting is complex!

It requires...

- Good concentration and attention
- Understanding of printed language
- Good posture
- Established dominant hand
- Development of the small muscles in the hand
- Good hand-eye co-ordination
- Ability to hold a pencil in a useful writing
- Ability to form pre-writing strokes
- Sensory awareness, especially touch



Pre Writing Development



Mark making and simple drawings –
Primitive grip to more secure finger thumb hold (try out different holds)



Children forced to use the correct grip before being developmentally ready has a negative impact on writing esteem and complicates later pencil grip readiness



Gross and fine motor skills are developed by using different graphics – pencil, crayon, brushes. Using too fine an implement too early can frustrate children.



Pre-writing patterns help pencil grip development and directional force.



Teaching pre-letter patterns and in large scale before attempting actual letters



Children prefer using plain paper before lined paper is less restrictive at first.



Large mark making uses the shoulder and core muscles whilst wrist controls finer marks.



Vertical drawing and painting surfaces help develop wrist strength and flexibility.

Formal Pre Writing & Letter Formation

Seating position, table height, body and paper position



Tripod grip typical around aged 4-5 – but important to do when developmentally and physically ready

Mastery of pre handwriting letter patterns before moving to letter formation – pushes, pulls etc.

Handwriting accuracy and speed

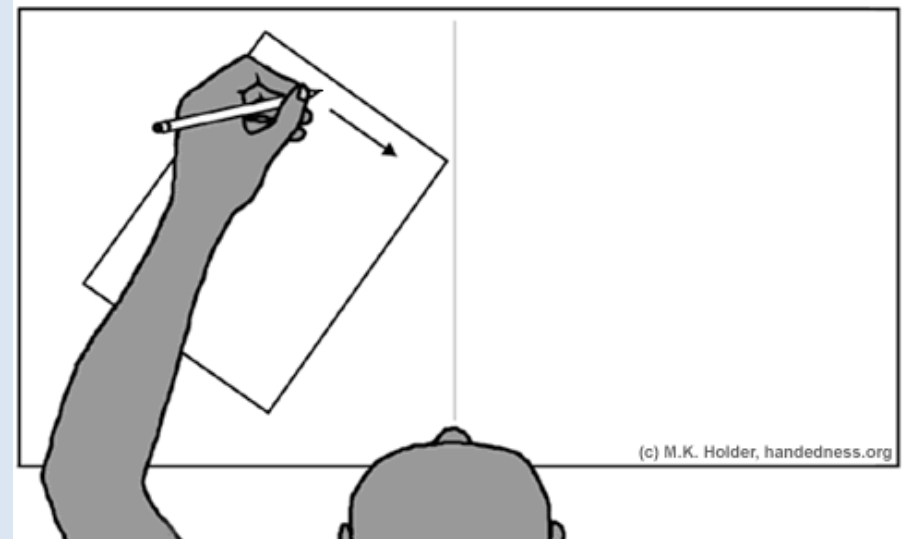
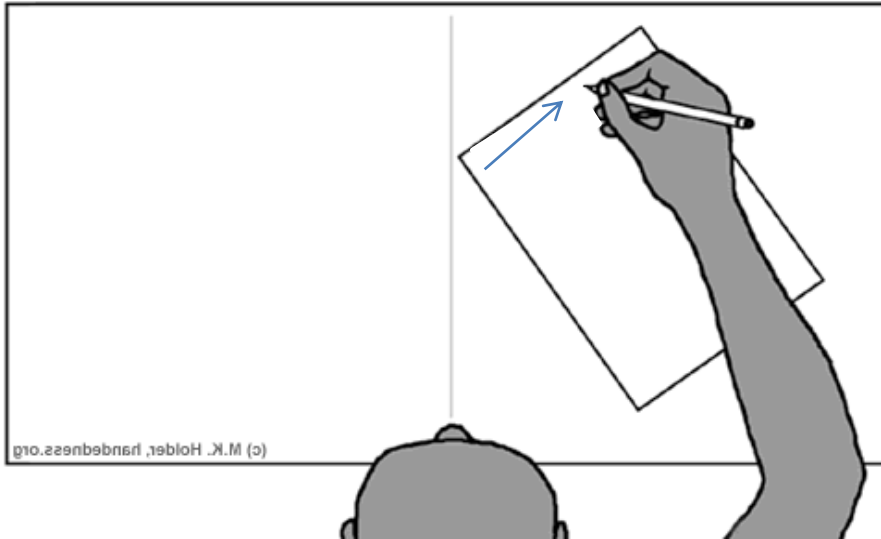
Perfection!

Teaching a 'lead in' and 'exit stroke' after learning the basic letter shape

Joining readiness when they can form letters correctly using consistent shape and size and positioned appropriately.

Teach lower cases in family order and the capital letters of their name.

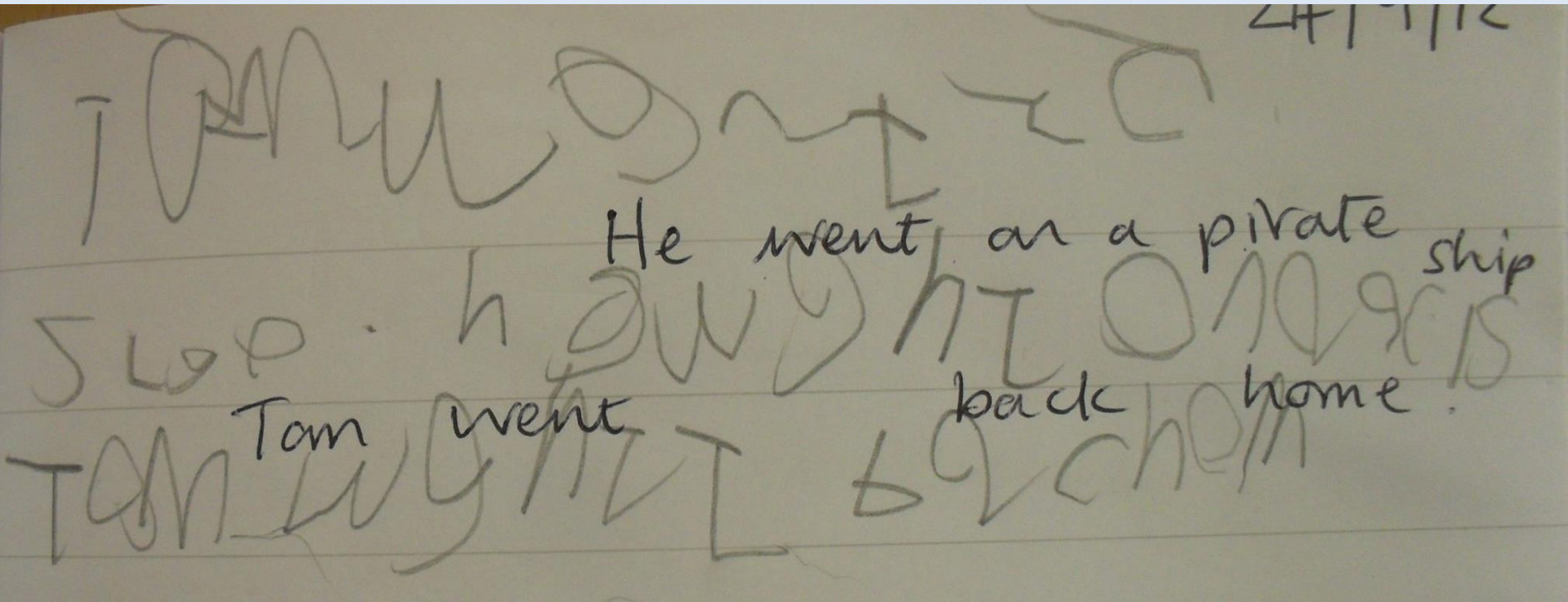
Paper Position



Left Handers

- Not all left handers are shown or manage a good grip – this needs to be taught – grip, where the pencil is in the hand, angle of the arm and wrist. A good grip at an early age will minimise problems. This is hard to identify early on as some children will use both left and write until they find a dominant hand.
- This is difficult to teach if you are not left handed!

What Makes Writing Legible?



Year 1 Autumn

I am fantastic at
rhythmic. I am cool in my
crazy is cool in my, mummy
is cool. I like to play
win India.

I am fantastic at.
pastime

Once a pon a time I
~~so~~ a goldon tict in a
woner bar it sed wood
you like to come to my
sachy you will finde
out wot kind of
to sachy it is when
you get thier it is at
the t the gerst of
~~octor~~ otober please come.

Mid way through Y2

Progression in Handwriting



EYFS



- Lots of fine and gross motor experience activities to develop children's upper bodies, hand/eye coordination and core strength – swinging, climbing, lying down and scribing etc.
- Activities to promote strong finger control eg Hama Beads, threading, tweezing, squirting from bottles and trigger bottles.
- Draw line and circles
- Holding pencil between thumb and two fingers near the point
- Developing control
- Copy some familiar letters such as the ones in their name
- Moving onto anti-clockwise
- Retracing vertical and horizontal lines
- Form recognisable letters mostly correctly formed

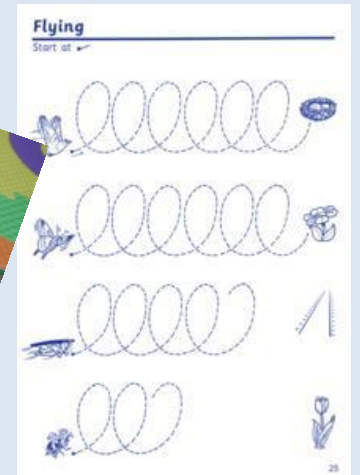
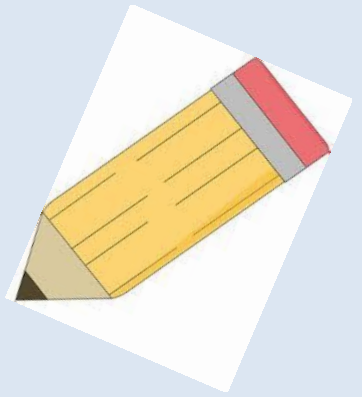
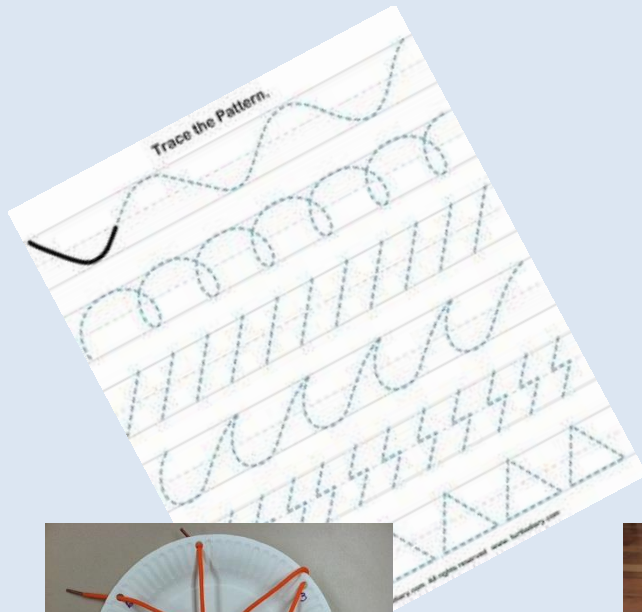


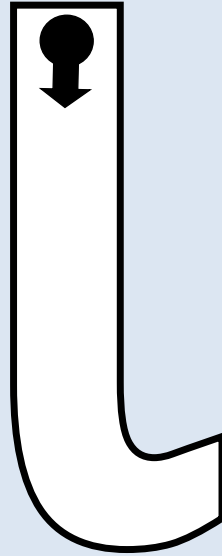
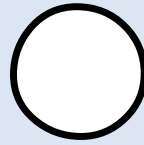
ELG

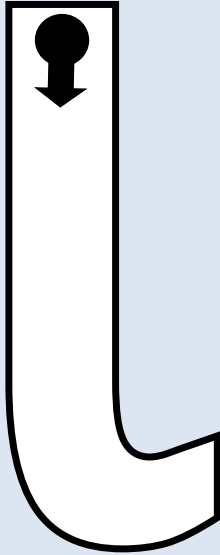
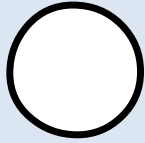
- To handle equipment effectively including pencils for writing (PD)

Exceed ELG

- To hold paper in position and use their preferred hand for writing using correct pencil grip
- To begin to write on lines and control letter size





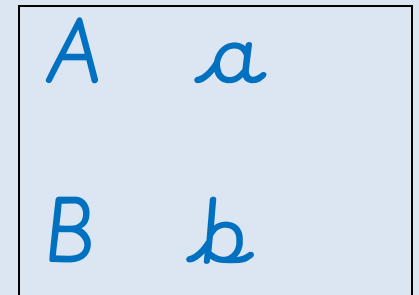


Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal dashed lines.

Year 1



- To sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
- To begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- To form capital letters
- To form digits 0-9
- To understand which letters belong to which handwriting families, e.g. letters that are formed in similar ways, and to practise these



Handwriting lines are important BUT when children are confident, they should transfer their skills to normal lined paper.



Letter Families

The individual letters should be taught in the following sets. The letters have been organised by the way their entry stroke is formed.

straight letters

i l t u y j

tunnel letters

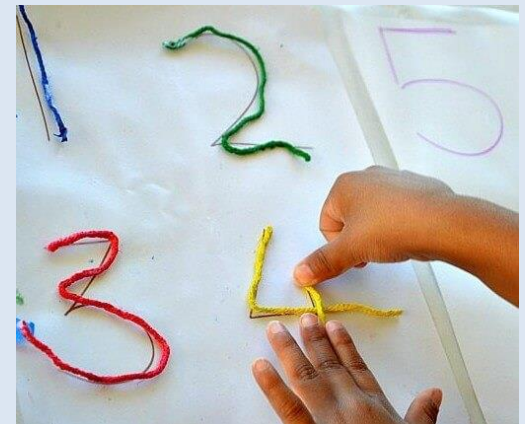
n m r p b h k

curved letters

c o a d g q s f e

zig zag letters

v w z x



Year 2



- To form lower case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- To start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- To write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
- To use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters
- To be *Greater Depth*, a range of consistently joined pieces should be evident

Y3 and beyond

- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].
- **Children to have regular handwriting practice, most effectively linked to spelling or key vocabulary - perhaps doing a 'best' piece of writing, copying poems etcthink kinaesthesiology!**



Do we need handwriting in this techno age?

Handwriting is important in our children's overall development, especially for cognitive development.

There are studies that support that children who wrote essays, as opposed to keyboarding, wrote more words, wrote faster, and had more content as opposed to those who typed the essays.

Another study, involving brain imaging showed that areas of the brain are activated when cursive writing, as opposed to typing. For instance, the same motion is needed whether you type a T or an X. However, when you write these two letters, different actions are required.

When we write, we integrate tactile, visual motor, visual perceptual and fine motor coordination skills.



1/10/2018

9 break

10 busy

1 after

2 again

3 any

4 bath

5 beautiful

6 because

7 behind

8 both

Reversals

- This is developmental and does not indicate a specific learning difficulty but is developmental
- Visual discrimination of letters is important
- Can children find the letters they have written backwards in their own writing?

Strategies

- Daily practice of actual writing
- Use of fine and gross motor activities (not just with young children)
- Specific teaching of handwriting families
- Link to spelling and word knowledge
- Use a variety of methods – modelling, video, rhymes
- Pinterest!



Any Questions?

