

*Primrose Hill  
Primary School*



*Pre-Cursive  
Handwriting*

*A Guide for Parents and Carers*

## Introduction

At Primrose Hill Primary School we encourage children to take pride and care in the presentation of their writing.

From the beginning of Reception to the end of Year Two we provide opportunities for children to develop the skills to enable them to produce work that is presented well.

We provide experiences for children to...

- develop upper arm strength through physical activity
- develop hand and finger control through hands-on practical activities such as play-dough and using tweezers
- develop spacial awareness
- learn about good presentation through modelling handwriting and looking at different texts
- learn about the formation of letters
- develop a joined handwriting style

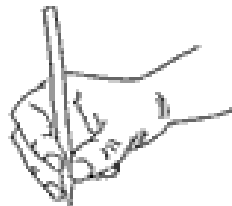
## Developing Motor Skills

Try some activities at home such as...

- climbing
- crawling
- throwing
- kneading dough
- grating cheese
- painting
- large drawing
- using chopsticks
- using tweezers
- play dough
- cooking

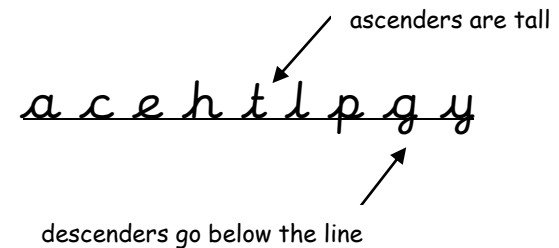
## Pencil Control

- Handwriting practice should be done using pencils and paper. This develops a child's pressure and strength that felt-tips do not.
- Any form of pencil control eg dot to dot, colouring etc is good practice.
- Formation on electronic devices (apps etc) is good but children should also practice on paper.
- Children **MUST** hold their pencil correctly, their thumb **SHOULD NOT** cover their fingers, as this restricts the movement.



## Good Handwriting

- Children should sit up straight with their feet flat on the floor.
- Writing should be done on a firm surface like a table.
- Paper should be slanted slightly to the left for right-handed children and to the right for left-handed children.
- Capital letters do not join up to other letters.
- Letters that have a tail (descenders) go under the line and tall letters (ascenders) should be much taller.



## Teaching Order of Letters

We teach the formation of letters by grouping them into those that have a similar formation

*i l t u y j*

*r n m h b p k*

*c a o d g q s f*

*v w z*

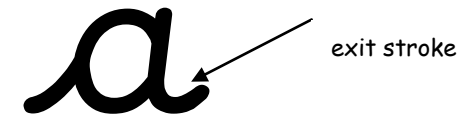
*e x*

Once children are forming these letters correctly, they will then be taught to use correct formation when writing whole words.

## Pre-Cursive Handwriting

**Pre-Cursive** handwriting means that each individual letter is formed with an exit stroke.

This is an example of pre-cursive handwriting.



This will lead to cursive writing in Year Two when the children will also be encouraged to start joining their letters.

This is an example of cursive handwriting.

