

Handwriting

We use handwriting phrases to help the children remember more detail about the letter formation and it helps build a mind picture of the formation before they start to write.

Teachers model this to the children by saying the mental check list as they write the letter.

We follow RWI for letter formation and handwriting. These are the phrases to remember how to form the letters.

- m Maisie, mountain, mountain
- a round the apple, down the leaf
- s slither down the snake
- d round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet
- t down the tower, across the tower
- i down the body, dot for the head
- n down Nobby, over his net
- p down the plait and over the pirate's face
- g round her face, down her hair and give her a curl
- o all around the orange
- c curl around the caterpillar
- k down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg
- u down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle
- b down the laces to the heel, round the toe
- f down the stem and draw the leaves
- e lift off the top and scoop out the egg
- l down the long leg
- h down the head to the hooves and over his back
- r down his back and then curl over his arm
- j down his body, curl and dot
- v down a wing, up a wing
- y down a horn, up a horn and under his head
- w down, up, down, up
- z zig-zag-zig
- q round her head, up past her earrings and down her hair
- x down the arm and leg and repeat the other side



We encourage to practise some of the letters for a short time every day.

1. Show the picture side and air-write as you say the phrase.
2. Ask your child to practise in the air with you.
3. Using a sharp pencil and sat at a table, encourage your child to have a go.
4. Praise your child for their efforts.

We encourage children to use the tripod grip when holding a pencil and find that triangular grips can really help pupils when beginning to write.

Children also need to practise sitting in good handwriting position. We use the advice from Ruth Miskin's website on handwriting to promote this.

- *Hand ready in a tripod grip – teach children how to do this right from Day 1.*
- *Feet on the floor?*
- *Bottom at the back of the chair?*
- *Body one fist from the table?*
- *Shoulders down and relaxed?*
- *Lean forward slightly?*
- *Left/right hand holds the page?*

We do not teach joined up handwriting.

However, if children choose to write like this and it is legible, this is not a problem.