

How To Help

Writing in Reception

19th January 2024

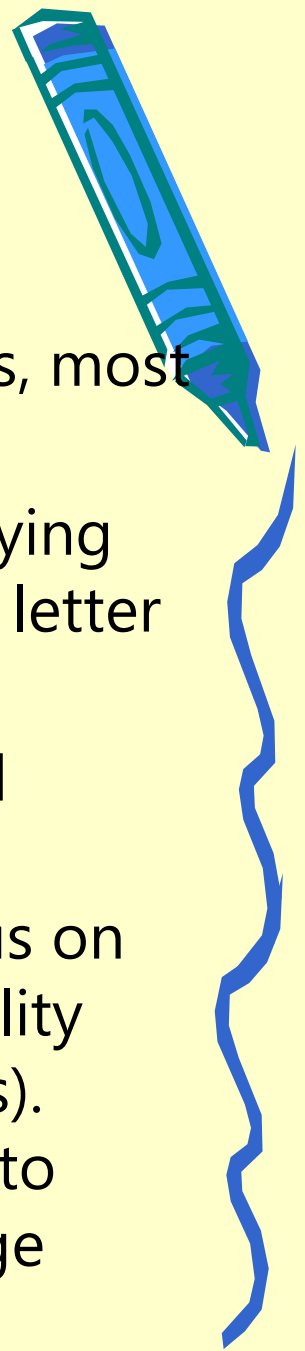
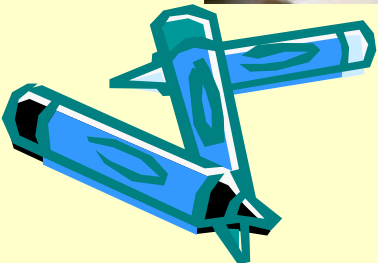


What are the expectations for writing by the end of Reception?

- Children should be able to write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Children should know how to spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Children should be able to write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

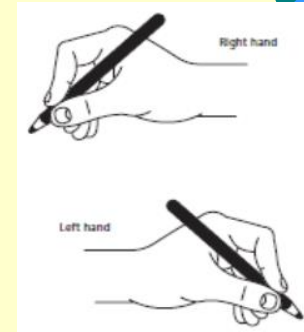


When focusing on writing, we focus on 2 things in Reception. First, the ability to write letters (the fine motor skills). Secondly, being able to link letters to sounds and apply phonic knowledge (and know some keywords too!)



Correct pencil grip

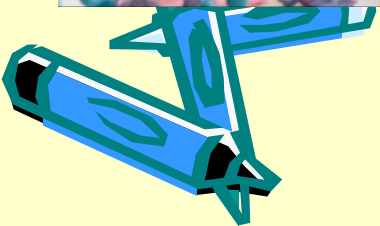
Please note that the pencil needs to be held between the thumb, forefinger and the middle finger. This grip needs to be firm and confident so that they can write clearly, comfortably and with confidence.



As the children are still young they need help to build the muscles to assist them to develop this skill. This is where you can also help to build their fine motor skills. Some activities that you can do at home are playing with ***playdough, cutting, painting, threading and gardening.***

Playdough is great to build up the muscles in their hands and also gives them lots of opportunity to use their imagination. There is a program on YouTube called Dough Disco which is a fun way to do this.

Tweezers uses the muscles needed for handwriting. Your child could try to pick up grains of rice, dry pasta or anything quite small. Perhaps you could turn this into a race or could time him/her to see if they could beat a previous record. Along with using **threading beads or pegging out washing** are some more ideas for getting those muscles moving.





























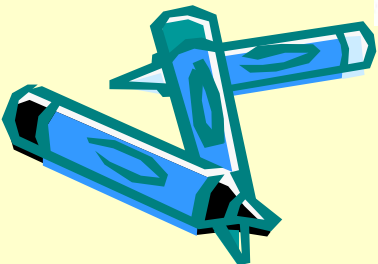
Correct Letter Formation

- All letters have a starting point for writing. This helps children when they start to join their writing in Year 2.
- Please use the sheet given to you at the beginning of the year to help support your child with this learning. Frequent reminding and good modelling will help ensure that your child learns to write correctly. Please remember that bad habits are hard to fix.



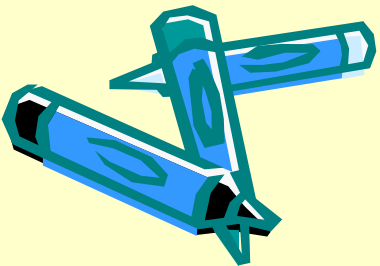
Rhymes for letter formation - taken from Read Write Inc.

a  Around the apple and down the leaf.	b  Down the laces to the heel and around the toe.	c  Curl around the caterpillar.	d  Around the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck & down to his toes.	e  Lift off the top and scoop out the egg.	f  Down the stem and draw the leaves.
g  Around the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.	h  Down the head, to his hooves and over his back.	i  Down the body and dot for his head.	j  Down his body, curl, dot for his head.	k  Down the kangaroo's body tail and leg.	l  Down the long leg.
m  Down Makie, mountain, mountain.	n  Down Nobby and over his net.	o  All around the orange.	p  Down the pirates plait and around his face.	qu  Round her head, up past her ear, down her hair and flick.	r  Down the robots back and curl over his arm.
s  Slither down the snake.	t  Down the tower, across the tower.	u  Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle.	v  Down a wing, up a wing.	w  Down, up, down, up.	x  Down the arm and leg, repeat the other side.
y  Down a horn, up a horn and under head.	z  Zig-zag-zig.				



Practising at home can be fun!!!

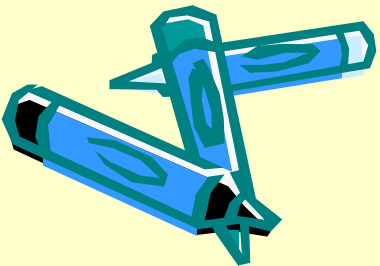
Encourage your child to write with his or her finger to get the formation right. You could try to write on a variety of different surfaces such as flour, sand, glitter, talcum powder and shaving foam which is more fun than paper!



Top five tips for practising handwriting



1. Play games that involve motor skills, e.g. playdough, tweezers and glitter.
Make it fun!
2. Choose a quiet place for your child to write.
3. Practise little and often, using the correct pencil grip.
4. Take every opportunity to help your child to recognise the letter names and sounds that they are writing.
5. **Be positive and build your child's confidence.**



Now on to the phonics part...

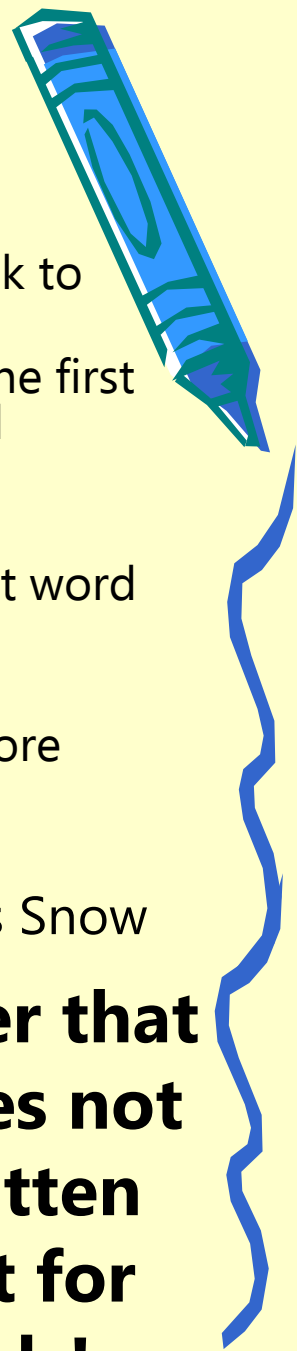
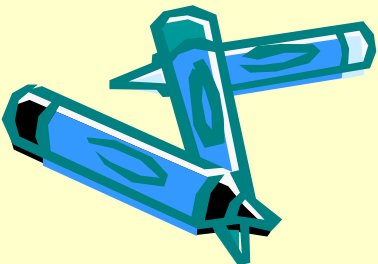
6 steps to writing

1. Ask your child to think of something they want to write. Repeat back to them the words that they want to write.
2. Repeat the first word SLOWLY to your child to allow them to hear the first sound in the word. Repeat the word several times to give your child several opportunities to hear any other sounds in the words.
3. Encourage the children to write the letter sounds they can hear.
4. Remind your child to leave a finger space before moving to the next word and repeat the process.
5. Finish your sentence with a full stop.
6. Once your child becomes more confident encourage them to be more independent and try writing the sentences on their own.

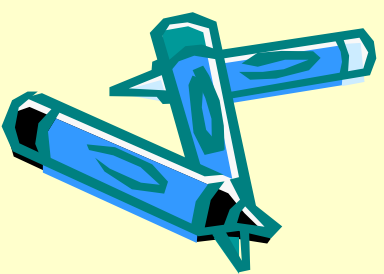
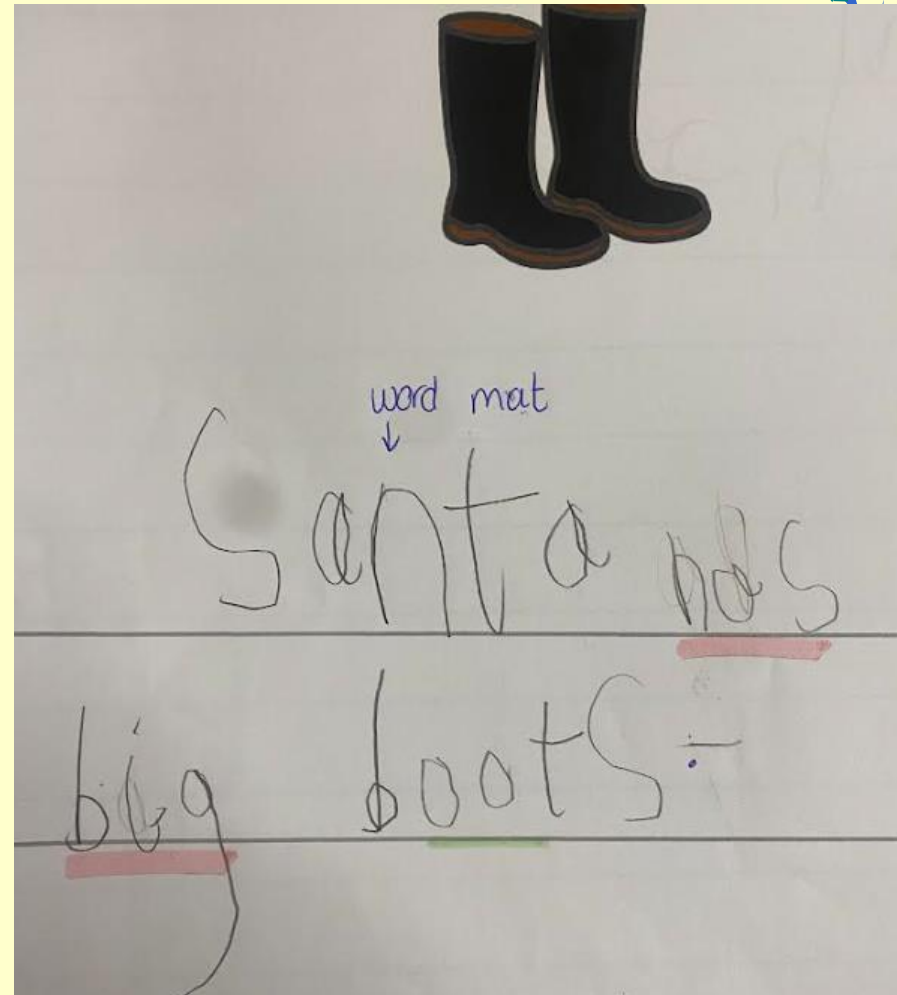
Please click on the YouTube link below to see an example of Miss Snow working with one of her children in writing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn_6xYqjXCw

**Please remember that
the spelling does not
need to be written
correctly apart for
their keywords!**



Here are some examples of children's writing in Reception



as
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a

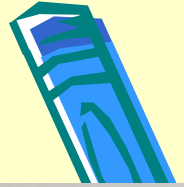
The ar w f f l o

l o s a g r e e n

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orange

I t s o f h i s o r a n d
eyes



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S a n t a h a s a

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Superheroes

26/06/23

(Vf)

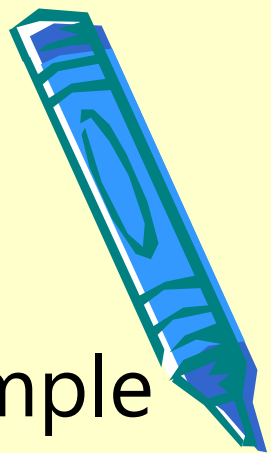
smg



I have a red cape a
blue mask
blloo m mck.

I have a power to fly
so I can see how ^{ou} sis.

ELG
example
of
writing



Finally...writing ideas

Making writing purposeful with real life experiences encourages children to become independent and keen writers. Here are some examples you could try at home:



Encourage your child to write ALL the time.

