



Handwriting Progression



This is the school's handwriting font:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Nursery/Reception/Year 1

NC Expectations

Beginning to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place

Forming lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another in some of the writing.

Handwriting resources - use of triangular pencils and pens in Nursery/YR/1.





(Stabilo Easygraph handwriting pencils)



Activities to develop the pincer/tripod grip - finger gym, dough disco, tweezers, cotton bud painting, screwing up tissue and making pictures with it. Keep reinforcing to the children why we need to 'pinch the pencil'. Use of Squiggle into Writing for the development of gross motor control.

Development of a Tripod Grasp

Even when a child has good fine motor skills and well-developed grasp patterns, holding a pencil is a new and complex task. You may need to check the child's grip on the pencil while they are colouring or drawing. The pictures below show the developmental stages that a child may go through when learning to hold a pen.

			
1-1½ years	2-3 years	3½-4 years	4½-6 years
Palmar Supinate Grasp	Digital Pronate Grasp	Static Tripod Grasp	Dynamic Tripod Grasp

(Erhardt, 1994)

Pre-handwriting: patterning

Pattern the Picture - When introducing sounds and using a picture, fill the outline with the pattern you are focusing on, or the child can choose a letter that they know how to do. They can also use different patterns to develop control. This can be used throughout school. If you are doing lines of patterns or letters do them in word chunk sizes eg. eeeee



Following the updated [Development Matters Guidance](#) and Early Years Outcomes for EYFS children, children are expected to show a preference for a dominant hand between the ages of three and four years..

Introduction of letters:

- Anti-clockwise letters c o a g d q
- Clockwise letters h m n r p b k
- Straight letters i l j t
- Under arch letters u y
- Diagonal letters v w x z
- Curvy letters s e f

By the end of Year 1, all letters should be formed correctly and should be on the line.

Year 2

NC Expectations

Form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters

Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Handwriting resources - use of Stabilo Easygraph handwriting pencils - thinner version.



Introduction of the four handwriting joins

- First join- To letters without ascenders; un um ig id ed eg an or ing ung
- Second join- To letters with ascenders; ch sh th tl ll ill sli slu ck ack st sti ink unk
- Third join- Horizontal joins; od pg re ve oon oom
- Fourth join- Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders ; wl vl of ff fl flo
- Practise capital letters

Break letters s, b, p, g, q, y, j, z

By the end of Year 2, descenders and ascenders must be clear and letters must be the right size in relation to one another. Writing must be joined.

Year 3

NC Expectations

Beginning to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.

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 begin to use a handwriting pen. (Signo gelstick)



Further practise of the four handwriting joins

- in ine
- ut ute
- ve vi
- ok oh
- sh as es
- ri ru ry (practising joining from the letter r)
- oa ad as (practising joining to and from the letter a)
- ee ea ed (practising joining from the letter e)
- ow ov ox (practising joining from the letter o)
- ky hy ly (practising joining to the letter y)
- ha ta fa (practising joining to the letter a)
- od oo og (practising joining from the letter o)
- er ir ur (practising joining to the letter r)
- ai al ay
- o you oi
- re oe fe (practising the horizontal join to the letter e)

Year 4

NC Expectations

Use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.

Increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the down strokes 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 use a handwriting pen.
(Signo gelstick)



- ning ping ting
- oc od oo
- ake ome are
- fla flo fle
- who wha whe
- ie in il
- inly ky ny
- ap ar an
- ick uck ack

- he
- we
- re
- fte fir fin
- wra wri kni (silent letters)
- ii ll tt rr nn mm cc oo dd ss ff ee
- ew ev ex (spacing)
- th ht fl (proportions)
- ac ag af

Year 5

NC Expectations

Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters and choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Children use a handwriting pen. (Signo gelstick)

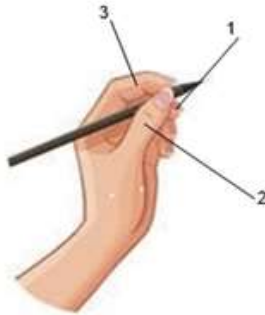


Revision of above objectives.

The Left-handed writer

All teachers need to be aware of the specific needs of the left-handed pupils and make appropriate provision:

- Paper should be positioned to the right for left-handed pupils (to the left for the right-handers) and slanted to suit the individual in either case.
- Pencils/pens should not be held too close to the point – this can interrupt pupils' line of vision.
- Left-handed pupils should sit to the left of a right-handed pupil so that they are not competing for space
- Extra practice with left to right exercises may well be necessary before pupils write left-to-right automatically



1. Tall Finger (side)
 2. Thumb (pad)
 3. Pointing Finger (tip)
- All fingers are slightly bent.



Only about 10% of the population are left-handed, and under 1% are ambidextrous!