



Early Handwriting Skills

Throughout Nursery and Reception, children take part in the following activities designed to improve their fine motor skills and to develop their hand and finger muscles:

- threading (large and then smaller beads)
- peg boards
- Nut and bolt turning
- cutting
- making very small balls of play-dough

Children start letter formation on a large scale such as on the teacher's whiteboard or outside with paintbrushes and water. We want the formation to be correct before 'shrinking it down.'

Pencil grip

Bad habits are difficult to break so please try and make sure that your child is always holding their writing implement properly when writing or drawing at home.



Consolidating and practising correct formation

There are many ways that children practise their letter formation at school; it is not always done with a pencil and paper. Children take part in a range of activities in which they are practising their letter formation.

Children learn to form their letters in the following formation groups:

Long Ladders i l t j u y

Curly Caterpillars c o a d g q e f s

One-armed Robots h n m r b p k

Zigzag Monsters v w x z

Ideas and activities to help your child at home

- Allow your child to use different writing implements to practise their writing such as special pens, felt tips or paintbrushes
- Make letter shapes using play-dough or plasticine
- Sky writing - draw big letters in the air
- Use index finger to make letter shapes in salt, sand, flour, paint, rice, oats, foam - be inventive!
- Use a toy car or train to make a letter
- Write with chunky chalks outside
- Use thick paintbrushes and water to draw letters on outside walls or on the ground

Please refer to the attached 'letter formation group sheets' to see how each letter is correctly formed. Thank you for your support.

