

# A Parent's Guide to Handwriting



Every parent worries about their child learning to write. Handwriting is primarily a physical process – just like riding a bike! The more you practise, the better you become at it. The more developed a child's fine motor skills, the easier they will find it to learn to hold a pen and form letters correctly.

To help you child develop their fine motor skills you could encourage him or her to:

- sort small toys and bricks into pots;
- post shapes;
- use clay or plasticine to make models;
- do lots of cutting and sticking;
- complete jigsaws;
- trace line drawings and patterns;
- draw pictures;
- complete dot-to-dots;
- colour



All of these activities will help to prepare your child for writing by developing his/her fine motor skills.

When your child arrives at school, he or she will be encouraged to 'make marks'. A vital part of the writing process is to ensure that children understand that what they write communicates meaning and, although this may initially appear to be scribbles to us, it often makes sense to the child.



### **What the government says!**

The National Curriculum attainment target for KS1 states that children should 'be taught to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely and with the correct orientation'. If this target is to be met, pupils need to have been introduced to the movements and principles of cursive i.e. joined writing, from the beginning of their schooling.

As a result of this, we begin to teach children elements of joined hand writing in reception and encourage children to say the sounds of letters (rather than the names) as they write.

We would be grateful if you could do this too.

We form letters by leading in from the line and 'flicking' at the end of the letter please click the link below to watch the video .

[Mrs Ross - Handwriting demo](#)

Please feel free to come in and speak to us if you are unsure of how to form any letter correctly.