

Handwriting Teaching Sequence and Progression

- In the Foundation Stage, children will be taught correct formation of individual letters as they arise in their phonics learning. Practice of these letters will then be in 'shape families'.
 - 'Curly Caterpillar' letters: a, c, d, e, g, o, q, s, f
 - 'One Armed Robot' letters: b, h, k, m, n, p, r
 - 'Long Ladder' letters: i, j, l, t, u, y
 - 'Zig-Zag' letters: v, w, x, z
- Once the required joins have been taught, digraphs and trigraphs will be reinforced as joined units where possible.
- Joins will be taught in the following sequence:

JOIN 1:

Diagonal join from letters with exit flick to letters without starting ascenders.

From set 1 (a, c, d, e, h, i, k, l, m, n, s, t, u)

To set 2 (a, c, d, e, g, i, j, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, u, v, w, x, y)

(Beginning with joins to red, straight line letters, progressing to joins to blue letters that begin with an anti-clockwise turn).

JOIN 2:

Diagonal join from letters with exit flicks to letters with ascenders.

From set 1 (a, c, d, e, h, i, k, l, m, n, s, t, u)

To set 3 (b, f, h, k, l, t)

JOIN 3:

Horizontal join from letters which finish at mid height to letters which start at mid height.

From set 4 (f, o, r, v, w)

To set 2 (a, c, d, e, g, i, j, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, u, v, w, x, y)

(Beginning with joins to red, straight line letters, progressing to joins to blue letters that begin with an anti-clockwise turn).

JOIN 4:

Horizontal join from letters which finish at mid height to letters with starting ascenders

From set 4 (f, o, r, v, w)

To set 3 (b, f, h, k, l, t)

- Joins will not be made after break letters (b, g, j, p, x, y, z) or to z.
- When children are secure with the joins and write with fluency, writing with a slope will be introduced.
- Individual style will be encouraged only when children are able to correctly form all joins and are able to write neatly at speed.

Handwriting Descriptions

Consistent descriptions are used to talk children through the different movements of letter formation.

Vertical line top to line *Down to the line*

Vertical line top to descender *Down under the ground*

Anticlockwise turn *All / half the way around*

Clockwise turn *Round and back*

'One-armed-robot' return *Bounce back up*

Semi-circular clockwise (n / m) *Over the hill*

Ascenders – starting point *Start in the sky*

Ascenders – return point (d) *Up to the sky*

Diagonal (v, w) *Up to the side*

Descenders (tails) *Under the ground and do the tail.*

Descriptive Talk for Letter Formation

a - All the way around, down and flick.

c - Half the way around, like a curly caterpillar.

d - All the way around, up to the sky, back down to the line and flick.

e - Start in the middle. All the way around and out.

g - All the way around, down, under the ground and do the tail.

o - All the way around.

q - All the way around, down under the ground and up to the side

s - All the way around and all the way back.

f - Start in the sky. A little way around, down under the ground and do the tail.
Pencil off and cross.

b - Start in the sky. Down to the line, bounce back up and round and back.

h - Start in the sky. Down to the line, bounce back up, over the hill and down to the line

k - Start in the sky. Down to the line, bounce back up, round and in and kick.

n - Down to the line, bounce back up, over the hill and down to the line.

m - Down to the line, bounce back up, over the hill and down to the line, bounce back up, over the hill again and down to the line

p - Down, under the ground, bounce back up and round and back

r - Down to the line, bounce back up and halfway over

i - Down and flick. Pencil off and dot.

j - Down under the ground, do the tail, pencil off and dot.

l - Start in the sky. Down to the line and flick.

t - Down to the line and flick. Pencil off and cross

u - Down to the line, curve and up. Back down to the line and flick.

y - Down to the line, curve and up. Down below the ground and do the tail

v - Down to the line and up to the side

w - Down to the line and up to the side, down to the line, up to the side

x - Start on the line, up to the side. Pencil off and draw across.

z - Line across, zig down, zag across.