

Key Terms

- ♣ Gross Motor skills
- ♣ Fine motor skills.
- ♣ Lower case letter.
- ♣ Capital letter is used in preference to 'upper case letter'.
- ♣ Short letter is the term used to describe a letter with no ascender or descender
- ♣ Letter with an ascender.
- ♣ Letter with a descender.
- ♣ Flick is used to describe an exit stroke.
- ♣ Curve is used to describe descenders on letters y, j, g and f.
- ♣ Cross bar is used to describe the left to right line on t and f.
- ♣ Clockwise
- ♣ Anticlockwise
- ♣ Vertical
- ♣ Horizontal
- ♣ Diagonal
- ♣ Parallel
- ♣ Joined
- ♣ Sloped
- ♣ Top
- ♣ Bottom
- ♣ Up
- ♣ Down



Handwriting Information for Parents



Foundation Year



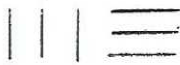






Preparation for Handwriting involves developing four key areas:

- ⊕ **Gross Motor Control:** the ability to control your body
- ⊕ **Fine Motor Control:** the ability to fine-tune the movements of the arm, hand and fingers.
- ⊕ **Visual Control:** the ability to co-ordinate hand-eye movements.
- ⊕ **Spatial Control:** the awareness of oneself in space, an awareness of direction (left/right) and plane (horizontal/vertical) and how to transfer that on to paper.

Here are some things you can do at home to develop these key areas:

- ◆ Play with a ball: kick, catch, throw, bounce etc.
- ◆ Play with hoops, Frisbees and stilts.
- ◆ Encourage play on large climbing frames in parks.
- ◆ Encourage football and dance-type activities.
- ◆ Play with large-scale building kits.
- ◆ Enjoy finger rhymes.
- ◆ Encourage your child to make things (cutting, sticking, moulding, cooking, sewing, threading, etc.) using a range of materials.
- ◆ Share jigsaw puzzles and board games.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for painting, colouring and making marks on different sizes of paper.

We experiment with the following seven basic patterns, which are excellent preparation for more formal work on letter formation.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| 1. Straight lines |  | 2. Upward loops |  |
| 3. Downward loops |  | 4. Circles |  |
| 5. Zig-zags |  | 6. Eights |  |
| 7. Spirals |  | | |

Please enjoy exploring these patterns at home in as many different ways as possible e.g. using paint, water, sand, flour etc.

Letter Formation

Pattern practice and 'play' writing are an important parts of handwriting development. When your child is ready for the letter formation please ask these questions:

- Where does the letter start?
- Is it a short letter letter? (a, c, e, i, m, n, o, r, s, u, v, w, x, z)
- Does it have an ascender? (b, d, f, h, k, l, t)
- Does it have a descender? (f, g, j, p, q, y,)

The lower case letters are introduced in these family types:

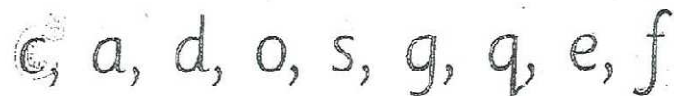
- Long ladder letters



- One-armed robot letters



- Curly caterpillar letters



- Zig-zag monster letters

