

KS1 Handwriting Workshop

Why is Handwriting important?

- It is important that writing is comfortable for children, awkward pencil grip and posture can place strain on the shoulders and arms.
- Having correct letter formation will allow children's writing to flow and increase the speed at which children are able to write. The more comfortable it is, the more children can think about content.
- At school we aim for a speedy sustainable script that will allow children to write comfortably.

The 4 P's

- Pressure

- Paper



- Posture

- Pencil



Posture



- Bottom at the back of the chair
- Back straight
- Feet flat on floor (use phone book if needed)
- Small gap between tummy and desk (about size of child's fist)
- Arms able to rest on desk

Pencil Grip



- Pencil grips (for correct finger placement)
- Different sizes/textures of pencils
- Magic writing stones encourage three finger grip but can also be useful for trying to stop children pressing so hard.

Activities for hand strength

- Play dough or putty - encourage lots of pinching, roll small balls of play dough with tips of fingers (one hand only), make pinch pots, hide things to find, cut playdough using scissors / knife and fork
- Games with tweezers - pick up small items including pieces of scrunched paper, rice, marbles.
- Tearing paper and scrunch up balls to make a collage
- Spray bottles and water pistols - if you are game...
- Cutting with scissors - the thicker the paper the harder the muscles have to work.
- Unscrewing and screwing nuts and bolts
- Threading and lacing activities
- Connecting games - like Lego.
- Drawing and writing activities

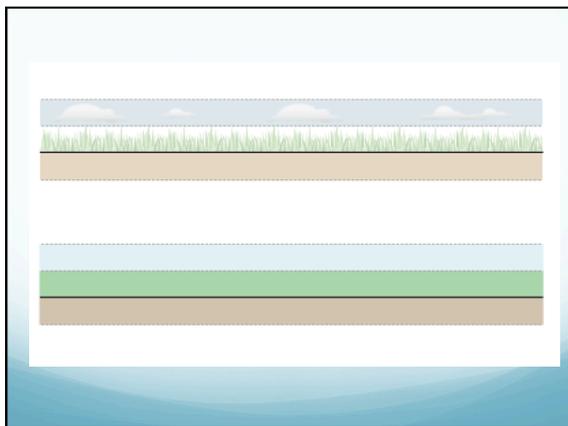
Letter Families

The importance of correct letter formation

- Curly caterpillar
- Long ladder
- One armed robot
- Zig – Zag monster

Other things to look out for...

- Are letters sitting on the line?
- Are letters of a consistent size? Sky, grass and roots.



Joining

- We have been starting to learn how to join some letters with some children.
- This is about stage not age. We wait to do this until letters are being correctly formed.
- At the moment please don't worry too much about joining, we are taking it slowly at school to get children used to it.