

Writing is one of the most exciting things your child will ever learn to do. Learning to write takes several years and lots of hard work and practice. Throughout this time, your child will need your help and encouragement to become confident and to develop a love of writing. We use Talk4Writing to scaffold our teaching of writing.

In school, we use a variety of activities to help your child develop hand/eye co-ordination and hand and pencil control. For example, tracing over patterns and drawing, painting, drawing, playing with Plasticine, dough and sand, using paints and ink, chalk and chalkboards will help develop the physical skills required.

Nurturing an imagination is vital in developing learning skills for life. You can encourage creativity by reading bedtime stories, or making up stories together on the bus or in the car, or whilst playing.

There are lots of ways in which you can support your child and have fun together. Here are some ideas:

Get your child to help with writing shopping lists or birthday cards. Ask your child to write their own name in birthday cards or invitations.

Give your child opportunities to hold a variety of different size crayons, pencils and felt-tips to make a marks, scribble patterns or drawings on paper. You can use plain paper and any other kind of paper that you have available at home. Give your child opportunities to use a variety of paints and paintbrushes if possible.

Encourage your child to hold a crayon or pencil with the correct grip.

It is very important that your child learns the correct way to hold a pencil or crayon at the beginning as it makes writing easier later on! We encourage the children to “pinch” the pencil like this:



Encourage your child to draw pictures of their own choice or ask them to draw you a picture, eg. about you, your home, family, playing, somewhere you have visited etc. You could make up and write a sentence about this too.

Make letters out of Plasticine or play dough and encourage your child to make his or her own.

Trace letters in sand and ask your child to copy. You can do this on the beach too!

Make marks and scratch letters with a stick in the mud.

Make patterns and drawings on a blackboard using white and coloured chalks.

Make marks with water and a fat paintbrush outside on walls and the floor.

The Early Stages... Help and encourage your child to practise the following:

Writing their name, forming the letters as shown overleaf. *PLEASE do not use only capital letters as it does not make learning to write easier.* Please remember to put the flicks on the bottom of lower case letters, as this will help your child later when they start to join writing.

Have a go at writing on his or her own. They will make marks and read these back to you. Accept that this is their writing at this stage. Children learn to write quicker if they believe they can do it! For now, let them play at writing. They will notice the rules of writing at each stage in their development as they learn to write.

Independent writing

There will come a time when your child will be able to write sentences that you can read without their help! They will use a selection of known words or by using phonics to “have a go”. Children will invent spellings at first but the more they read the better their spellings will get.

Practising at home will really help their skills to develop. They could write about places they have visited, keep a diary, re-tell a story they know or make up a new one, make their own books or write postcards, invitations, letters etc.



Later on, joined-up handwriting is necessary to speed up your child's written work. We use a handwriting scheme called *LetterJoin*. It is an on-line learning tool, so you can log on at home and practice too. Ask your child's teacher for details.

We want children to enjoy writing and have fun.

If you are concerned, please talk to us about it.

Remember, practising at home will really help!