

Handwriting Parents' Workshop

Monday 20th March 2017



“There’s something incredibly powerful about making your mark on paper. It’s the moment when an idea leaves your mind and looks back at you for the first time. I’ve never been able to replicate that experience digitally. It’s not unlike Skyping with a close friend vs. having them over for dinner...”

- J.K. Rowling

Objectives of session



- Importance of handwriting
- Handwriting in EYFS and year 1
- How handwriting is taught at Deer Park
- Assessment

Importance of Handwriting



Research shows children with good handwriting:

- Write automatically allowing them to concentrate on compositional aspects of writing.
- Remember spellings through letter patterns.
- Remember what they have written.
- Get their ideas onto paper more fluidly.
- Enjoy writing more than children with poor handwriting.

EYFS expectations



Early Learning GOAL

- Children show good control and co-ordination in large and small movements.
- They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.

Year One Expectations

- **Pupils will be taught to:**
 - Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
 - Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
 - Form capital letters
 - Form digits 0-9

Letter families



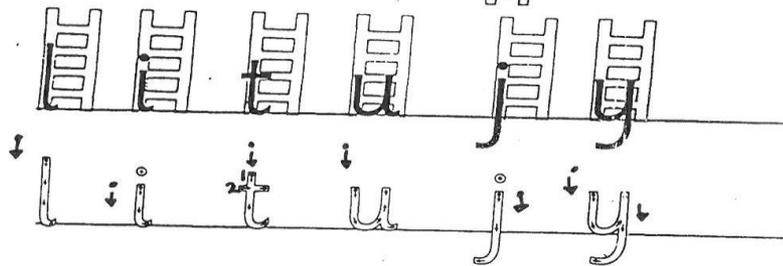
Penpals for Handwriting: information for parents

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

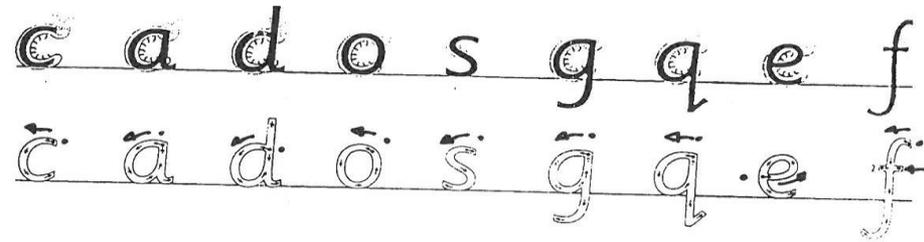
- Where does the letter start?
- Is it a short letter? (a, c, e, i, m, n, o, r, s, u, v, w, x, z)
- Does it have an ascender? (b, d, f, h, k, l, t)
- Does it have a descender? (f, g, j, p, q, y)

The lower case letters are introduced in the following order in four family types:

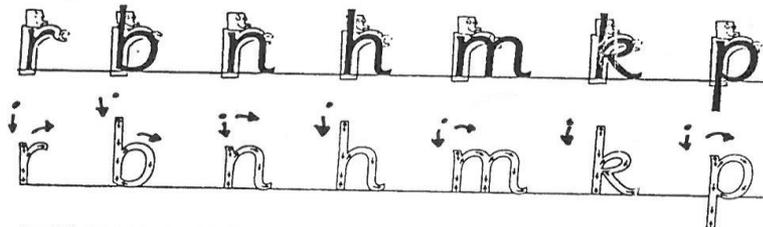
The family of long ladder letters



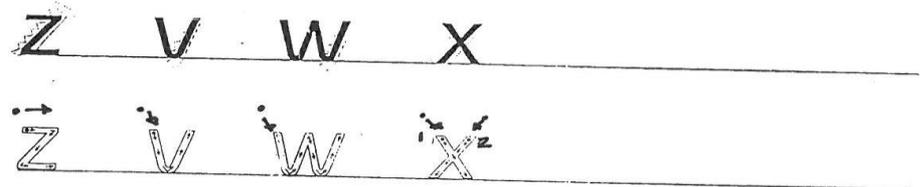
The family of curly caterpillar letters



The family of one-armed robot letters



The family of zig-zag monster letters





A Typical Penpals lesson

- Warm-up for gross and fine motor skills
- Introduce the letter or pattern
- Children practise by sky writing
- Children write the letter/s or pattern on whiteboards
- Practise in books – often writing words with the letter/s in
- Self or peer assess

Pencil Hold and Posture



- A good posture and pencil hold are vital for good handwriting.
- The traditional pencil hold allows children to sustain handwriting for long periods, but there are many alternative pencil holds (particularly for left-handers)
- Children should be discourage sitting on one foot, kneeling or wrapping their feet around the legs of the chair!



What makes good handwriting?



The children have decided as a class the success criteria for good handwriting and have regular opportunities to recognise these successes in their own and other's writing.

Fawn class have decided that good handwriting includes:



Keep your letters the same size.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
lmnopqrst
vwxyz.?!@
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
OPQRSTUVWXYZ
12345678910



Our steps to beautiful handwriting.

Hold your pencil



Start in the right place.

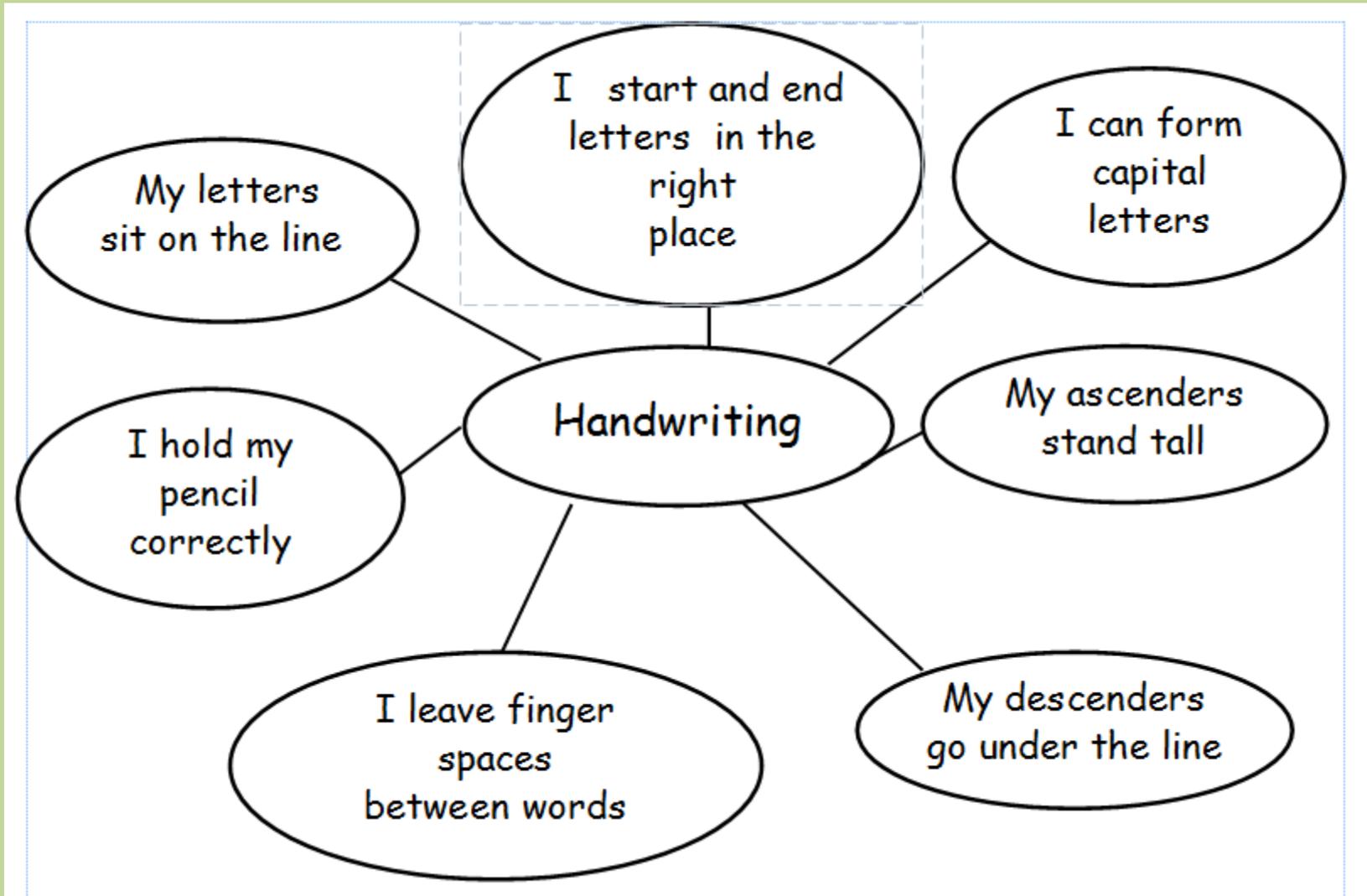


Stay on the line.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	
h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o
p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w
x	y	z					



Roe class have decided that good handwriting includes:



Posh Pencils

- The children are trying to win a posh pencil by using neat, correctly formed handwriting in all of their work.