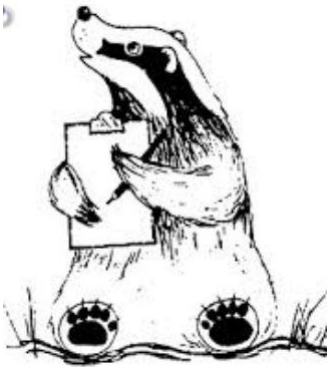


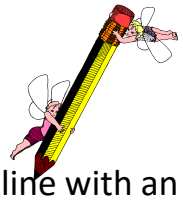
Handwriting
Information for Parents

What we do and how we do it!

Our Aim

Our aim is that your child will be able to write clearly, fluently and quickly so that they can cope with the everyday demands of life and school.

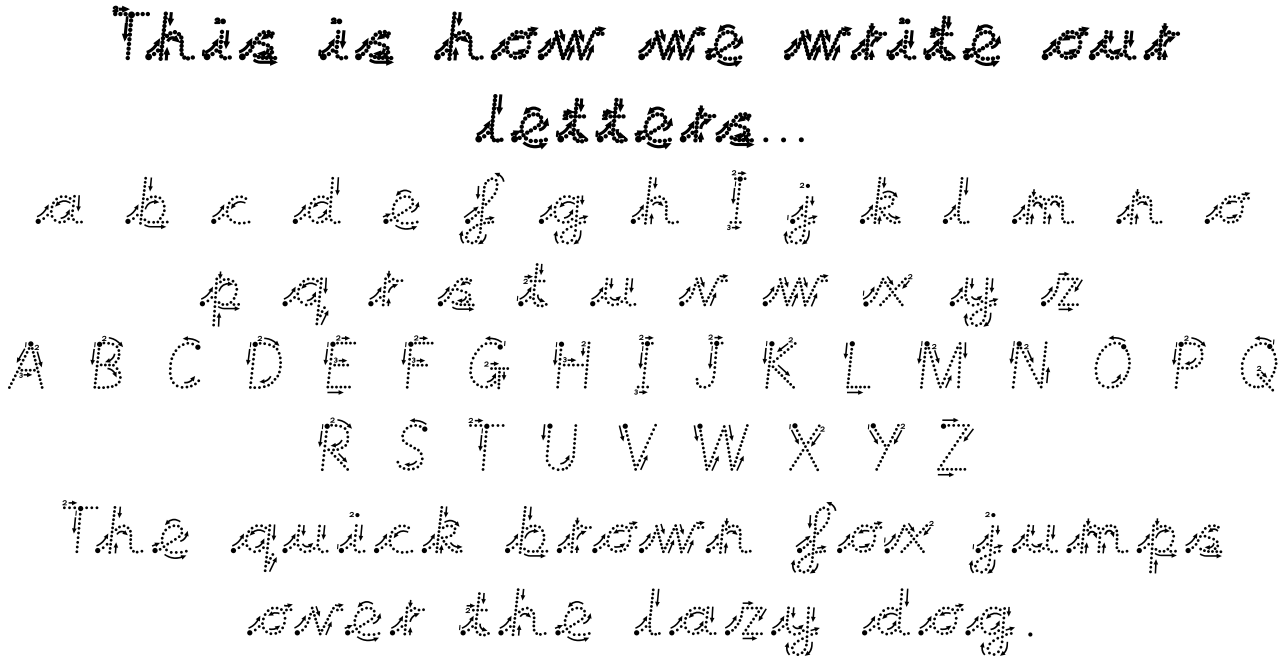
The rules of the cursive style help:



- to minimise confusion for your child as every letter starts on the line with an entry stroke and leads out with an exit stroke
- with the flow of cursive writing as letters naturally flow into each other; it is almost impossible to write separate letters without joining.
- form spacing between words as your child develops whole word awareness
- develop your child's visual memory
- all children's writing skills regardless of academic ability.

Cursive handwriting

All letters start on the line with a lead-in stroke and this handwriting style is taught from Reception right through the school.



Pencil grip

A correct pencil grip is essential for comfortable fluent handwriting. The most efficient grip is known as the 'tripod' grip. In Hedgehogs, if your child finds it tricky to hold a thin pencil, we may use chunkier pencils or a pencil grip designed to develop the tripod grip.

Dotting 'i' and crossing't'

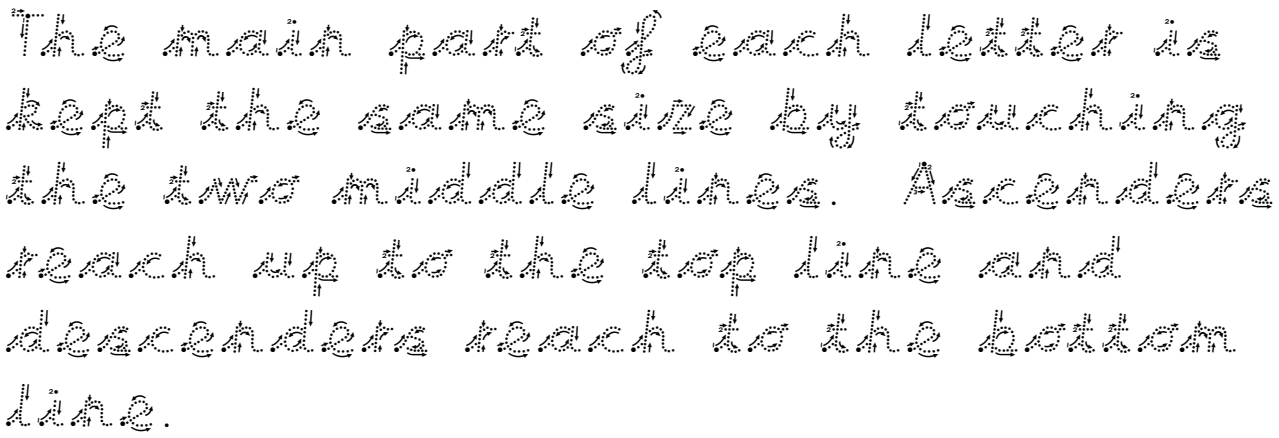
Once your child is writing words, they are reminded that their pencil stays on the page until the word is written. When they have finished the word, they go back to dot and cross.

Posture and Paper Position

Your child is encouraged to sit up straight with their feet resting flat on the floor. For most children, the paper is just to the right of the body and tilted slightly to the left. They steady the paper with their left hand. This is opposite for left-handed writers who will make marks by pushing rather than pulling their writing implement. We always ensure that left handed children have space to their left as they write.

Handwriting paper:

Once your child has correct letter formation, they will practise making their letters a consistent size with clear ascenders and descenders. At school, we practise this using tracing and move onto using paper with 4 lines.



If you want to have a go at home, handwriting worksheets focussing on specific letters can be downloaded for free at http://www.kidzone.ws/cursive/#Worksheets

Have a go at home:

Activities to develop fine motor skills (coordination of small muscle movements)

- Building with Lego
- Tearing paper
- Pegging out washing
- Threading and sewing activities
- Cutting with scissors
- Using chunky felts and crayons
- Colouring and dot to dot activities
- Making with play dough
- Playing with small objects.
- Picking up objects with tweezers

Activities to develop handwriting

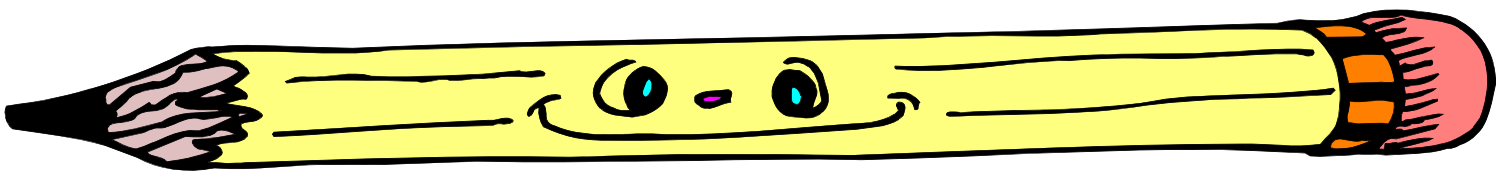
Super-size letters outside

Try practising letter formation extra-large using:

- chalks on tarmac
- Water and a paintbrush on dry walls
- A stick in sand / mud
- Using ribbon, daisy chains, shells, to show correct letter formation.
- Dance out the letters when you have drawn them

Peter Pointer activities

Children use their dominant index finger, 'Peter Pointer', to form letters in or on a:

- Sand tray
- shaving foam
- glitter – use a paintbrush
- Someone's back
- The air

Happy handwriting!