

Writing With Your Child



How to sit for writing

1. Both feet need to be flat on the floor if they reach or on an object (like a box).
2. Bottom should be at the back of the chair.
3. Non-dominant hand should hold the page/book still.



Pencil Grip

Encourage your child to adopt the tripod grip by using the term 'crocodile fingers' – this is an easy way for them to remember how to hold their pencil. Their pencil should be pinched between their thumb and forefinger and should rest on their middle finger.



Mark Making

Mark making is the precursor to writing. You can prepare your child for letter formation by using structured mark making activities as shown in the picture.



Letter Formation

Mark making leads on to letter formation. We use Read Write Inc's letter formation phrases to help the children remember how to form each letter correctly. This not only helps them to shape the letters but also to know where to start and finish them. This prepares them for cursive writing later on.

Name Writing

Whilst your child may not have learnt the sounds that appear in their name, it is really important for them to know how to write it. This is because it is the first memorable and meaningful group of letters that they recognise and understand. It also helps them to name their own work that they are proud of such as pieces of art, maths and writing.

Sāim

Finger Spaces

When children begin to write sentences, it's really important to ensure they put spaces in between each word. This helps them to read their own writing aloud and to learn what a sentence is. We teach the children to place one or two fingers down on the page in between each word. Left handed writers may struggle with this as their right hand (being used for a finger space) gets in the way for writing the next word with their left hand. Lollipop sticks are a great way to overcome this.

