

# Letter Formation Tips for Young Writers ☐

To form the letters, start at the dot and follow the arrows. ☐

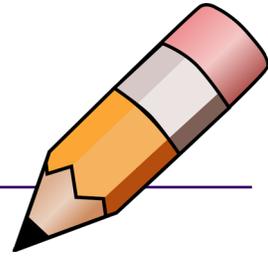
- ◆ Lined paper helps children to practise the letter formation as the key feature of this handwriting style is that the lowercase letters always start on the line.
- ◆ Some children will struggle with pencil control and grip. If that's the case, please speak to your child's teacher and they can give you a range of activities you can do to help develop their fine motor skills. ☐
- ◆ Once children are able to form letters correctly, you can begin to support children with uniformity of letter size.

## Helping Your Child at Home

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- ▶ The best way to support your child is to practise, practise, practise!
- ▶ Motivate your child by providing him/her with a variety of tools such as felt-tips, chalk and paint as handwriting requires a lot of practice.
- ▶ Lined paper helps children to practise the letter formation as the key feature of our handwriting style is that the lowercase letters always start on the line.
- ▶ Please pick up a leaflet about handwriting to help you learn more about handwriting.
- ▶ Check the internet for more ideas how to help your child. A good start is:  
[www.teachhandwriting.co.uk](http://www.teachhandwriting.co.uk)

# The Art of Handwriting



**Padnell Infant  
School**

Mighty oaks from  
tiny acorns grow

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## Key Aims of Our Handwriting Teaching

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- ▶ All pupils should develop a fluent, neat and legible style of handwriting of which they can be proud.
- ▶ All pupils understand the importance of clear and neat presentation in order to communicate meaning clearly.
- ▶ All pupils take pride in the presentation of their work and therefore study handwriting with a sense of enjoyment and achievement.
- ▶ All pupils are able to write quickly to aid expressing themselves creatively and imaginatively across the curriculum and for a range of purposes.

## Key Advantages of Continuous Cursive Handwriting

- ◆ □ By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape.
- ◆ □ Because letters and words flow from left to right, children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (b/d or p/q)
- ◆ □ There is a clearer distinction between capital letters and lower case letters
- ◆ □ The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed and spelling.

## Continuous Cursive Style

Our handwriting style is what is known as the 'continuous cursive' style. In other words it is joined-up writing where each letter is formed without taking the pencil off the paper - and consequently, each word is formed in one, flowing movement.

## Letter Groups

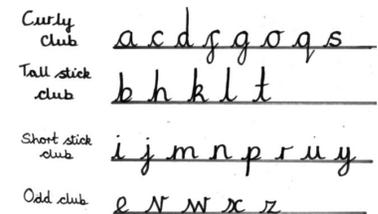
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When children are taught handwriting, letters are taught in groups. Some letters are formed in similar ways and once children are able to form one of the letters in the group, they are taught to apply the movements to write the other letters. □

Children also practise handwriting patterns to help them with the flow, rhythm and movements required to form the different letter groups.

### Letter families

For teaching letter formation



## Four basic joins

Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders, e.g. ai, ar, us.

Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders, e.g. ou, vi, wi.

Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders, e.g. ab, ul, it.

Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders, e.g. ol, wh, ot.

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