



Handwriting

A Parent's Guide

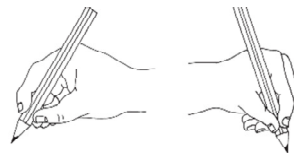
This leaflet is to explain why and how we teach handwriting at Thorndown Primary School. It also includes ideas on ways in which you can help to develop your child's handwriting.

At Thorndown, our aim is that pupils will be supported to develop a cursive handwriting style which is clear, joined and fluid. Inevitably some will be neater than others, but each child can acquire a consistent and fluent style. Cursive style letters start from the line and are taught in families.

It is important that children hold their pencil correctly and ensure their posture is correct.

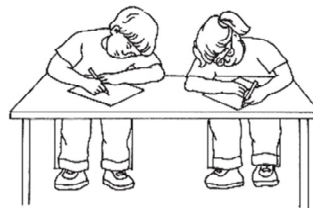
Pencil hold

- Pencil held between finger and thumb
- Middle finger provides extra support



Posture

- Feet flat on the floor
- Head up, not resting on the desk or hand
- Paper at the correct angle
- Spare hand steadies the paper



How can you help your child?

- ✎ Have a small selection of handwriting materials readily available at home. Soft pencils, fibre-tip pens and some sheets of A4 typing paper are enough for a start.
- ✎ Encourage your child to write on a line, even if they have to draw it themselves.
- ✎ Encourage your child to join his/her writing in any work brought home.
- ✎ Let handwriting play a part in your family's daily life, for example:
 - ✓ making lists and labels
 - ✓ keeping a family diary
 - ✓ leaving notes for each other in busy households
 - ✓ keeping in touch with distant friends and relatives
 - ✓ designing and making home-made notepads and greetings cards.
- ✎ Many children like to do their homework lying on the floor, but don't let them! Please do your best to provide somewhere where your child can work - the end of the kitchen table is perfect!
- ✎ Praise, praise, praise!

The Rockin' Round Letters

- a – lead up, rock back, lead on
- c – lead up, rock back
- d – lead up, rock back, three quarter up, three quarter back, lead on
- o – lead up, rock back, loop round, lead on
- g – lead up, rock back, drop down, loop round

The Tallees

- b – lead up, three quarter line, drop back down, pop, lead on
- h – lead up, three quarter line, drop down, over the hill, lead on
- k – lead up, three quarter line, drop down, pop, lead on
- l – lead up, three quarter line, drop down, lead on
- t – lead up, three quarter line, drop down, lead on. Cross over

The Rollercoasters

- e – lead up, loopde loop
- s – lead up, curly-wurly, lead on
- x – lead up, backwards c, forwards c
- z – lead up, zig, zag, zog
- f – lead up, three quarter line (with a hat), drop down, three quarters, loop to lead on

The Up-downs

- y – lead up, drop down, smiley, drop down, loop
- u – lead up, smile, lead on
- i – lead up, drop down, lead on. Dot
- m – lead up, drop down, over the hill, over the hill, lead on
- n - lead up, drop down, over the hill, lead on
- r – lead up, drop down, back up, lead on with a hat
- v – lead up, zig zag, lead on
- w – lead up, down, up, down, up, lead on

The Drop-downs

- j – lead up, drop down, three quarters, loop round, lead on
- p – lead up, drop down, three quarters, back up, pop, lead on
- q – lead up, rock back, drop down