

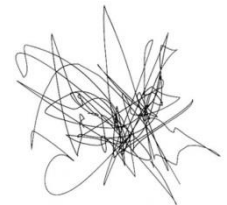
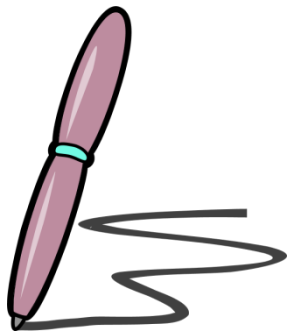
Supporting your child with Writing in the Early Years



Stages of writing for young children

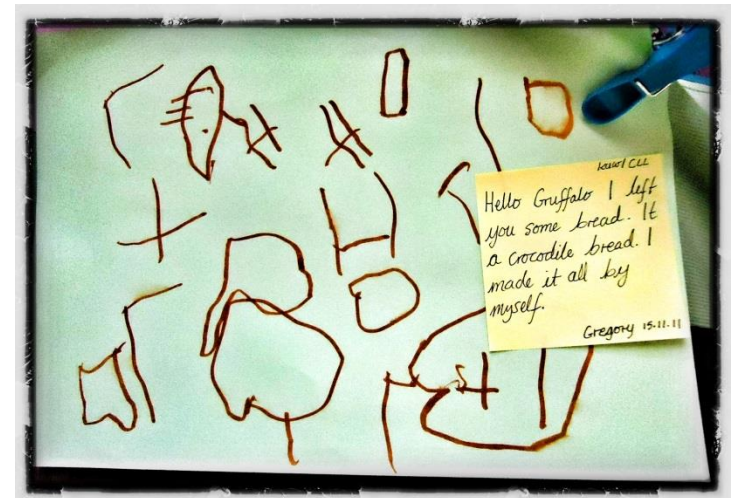
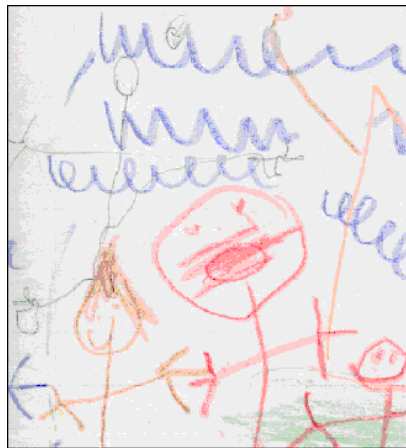
Children go through different stages of development when learning to write.

Most 2 and 3 year olds will begin to hold a pencil/brush/felt tip and make marks



Mark Making, ascribing meaning to marks

Most children will attempt writing, even mark making and drawing is a way of writing.



Writing their name

Many children learn to write their name and will begin to write letters independently from their names but they often will tell you what they have written.



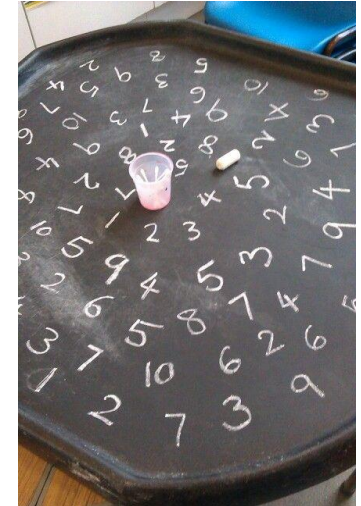
Pre-writing activities

Children can practise fine motor skills in many different ways.

Children need to develop their hand strength in order to write successfully.



Mark Making
with play dough



- * Dough disco
- * Funky fingers
- * Handwriting exercises

Letter Formation

In reception we practise handwriting every day encouraging children to hold a pencil correctly and start their letters from the right place.



Practising Letter Formation



Types of letter

Around letters – a, d, g, c, o, q,

Down Letters – l, t, r, n, m, j, i, k, p, b, u, h, y

Curly letters – e, s, f,

Zig zag letters- v, w, x, z

Types of letter

When children are able to form their letters correctly they will begin to learn the orientation of letters.

Floating letters sit on the water line.

Floating tall letters go towards the sun.

Sinking letters will sit below the water line.

What can we do to help?

- * Use the letter phrases that we use in school.
- * Draw a dot so children know where to start their letter.
- * Ensure they move their pencil in the **correct** direction.
- * If using dotted letters make sure you also let children practise without dots so they don't become over reliant on them.
- * Model writing using lower and upper case letters in the correct place.
- * Praise children for writing!

Developmental stages of writing

Common stages of writing include:

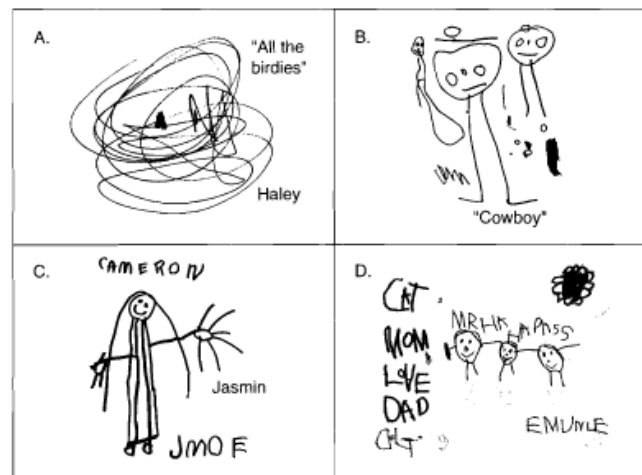
- * Reversing their letters
- * Writing from right to left
- * Mirror writing
- * Capital letters in words and name

These are developmental but can become habit if not corrected.

Technical letter

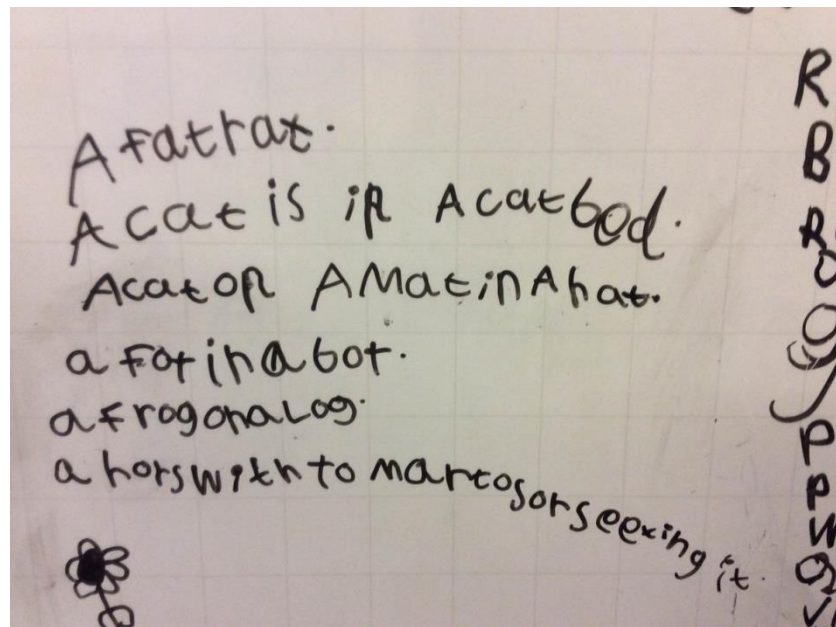
When children have learnt lots of initial letter sounds (grapheme) and can match letter and sound together they begin to apply this independently in spelling.

Children will be learning how to write our 'red' words (which can't be decoded easily) and apply this independently.



Beginning to write a sentence

Children begin to write sentences using and applying their phonics - the sounds they can hear in the word they want to write. Children begin to build up a bank of words they can write independently. They may be mum, dad, cat, dog, love, I, the, and...

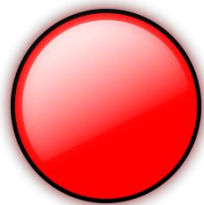


Beginning to write a sentence

In our guided writing sessions we help children to understand what a simple sentence is and how we can be successful when we write a sentence. Children are taught strategies to help



Finger spaces



full stop



using phonics



capital letters

How do I support my child at home with their writing?



- * Let your child see you writing correctly
- * Find short opportunities for purposeful writing-making a shopping list, birthday cards, Christmas list, thank you cards
- * Writing about own interests- e.g. printing off a picture & writing initial sounds/short sentence
- * Make writing fun! Have lots of different marker pens for them to use, envelopes, coloured papers
- * Make up their own story, make their own book
- * Take tea and coffee order when people come round
- * Be inventive! Make it work for your child.

What should my child's writing look like in Reception?



- * What does a child's writing look like in Reception?

All children's writing will look different depending on their development. By the end of reception we want children to be:

- * writing short sentences that they can read back
- * write a few red words
- * some high frequency words
- * We expect their handwriting to be legible and that letter formation is good.

What does writing look like across the school?

- * Reception children begin to learn initial letter sounds through RWI and they apply this in their writing. Children start by writing as they speak using their phonics. They learn how to write red words and common words.
- * In Year 1 RWI continues helping children to learn sounds, including new spelling patterns e.g. ai, ay, a-e. They will learn to write sentences in different formats e.g. letters, stories, poems, diaries. They have handwriting books.
- * In Year 2 children continue to develop an understanding of spelling patterns using these more frequently in their writing.