

Other letters

ℓ - lift off the top and scoop out the egg.

ℓ - down the arm and leg, to the top of the other arm and repeat the other side.

ℓ - zig - zag - zig.

ℓ - all the way down the stem, go back and draw the leaves.

ℓ - slither down the snake.

ℓ - down his body, up and curl the tail and a kick for the leg.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We hope you have found it useful and that you now feel more confident to support your child at home with their handwriting.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher who will be happy to answer any queries you have.

Handwriting in EYFS at Juniper Hill A Guide for Parents



Kindness Enjoyment Achievement

At Juniper Hill the children learn to write in a joined cursive script. In the Reception year, the children start by learning how to write the basic letter shapes with a lead out stroke. When they are ready, (usually in Year 1), they will then learn to write the letters with a lead in stroke which starts on the line and this will progress to learning to join letters.

The correct formation of letters is extremely important. When learning to write letters in the EYFS the most important element is to ensure that the children learn to form the letters of the alphabet with the correct sequence of strokes from the beginning. Writing letters correctly needs to become automatic and will require a lot of practice.

For young children, handwriting develops as they develop increased control over their bodies. In order that children eventually acquire a legible, fluent and fast handwriting style, they need to develop skills including:

- Good gross and fine motor skills
- A recognition of pattern
- Language to talk about shapes and movements
- The main handwriting movements involved in the four basic letter shapes l, c, r & v

All of the above are taught during the Reception year and many will continue into Year 1. The development of gross and fine motor skills is important for many areas of learning and how we teach and develop these in school will be covered in a different booklet.

Stick first continued

p – down his plait, up and around his face and give him a smile.

2 o'clock letters.

c – curl round the caterpillar to his bottom.

a – around the apple and down the leaf.

d – round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet.

g – all the way around her face, down her hair and give her a curl.

q – all the way round her head, down her hair and give it a flick.

Top joiners letters

o – all around the orange and give it a hat.

r – down his back, up and curl over his arm.

v – down a wing, up a wing and fly off.

w – down, up, down up and wiggle off.

Letter Formation with Phrases.

In Reception the children are first taught the basic letters with a lead out stroke. The lead out stroke is not used on the Read Write Inc resources so we have added to the mnemonic phrases to include this part of the letter formation. Below is an example of how we write all the letters in Reception with the mnemonic phrase.

Straight letters.

i - down to his tail and a dot for his head.

l - down the tall leg to the toes.

t - down the tower and walk out of the tower. Across the tower.

u - down and under the umbrella and splash! in the puddle.

y - down the horn, up a horn, under his head and tickle his nose.

j - push him down into his box and out he jumps. A dot for his head.

Stick first

n - down Nobby, and kick the ball over the net.

h - down the head to the hooves and over his back.

m - down Maisie, mountain, mountain.

b - down the laces to the heel, up and round the toe and KICK!

Pencil Grip

Part of the process of learning to write letters correctly involves developing a good tripod pencil grip. As a child's gross and fine motor skills develop how they hold a pencil also develops and changes. All children are different and they will work towards being able to hold a pencil in a tripod grip at different rates. Below are some of the pencil grips a child may use before they achieve a tripod grip which is shown in pencil grip 4

Pencil grip 1



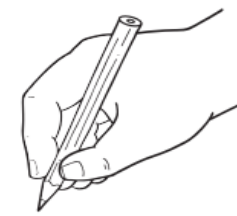
Pencil grip 2



Pencil grip 3



Pencil grip 4



At home observe the pencil grip your child naturally uses. If they are using pencil grip 1 or 2 then they will need to work on developing their gross and fine motor skills to help them develop the muscles to hold a pencil correctly. If they are using pencil grip 3 then some fine motor activities will help them to develop the finger muscles to hold a pencil correctly. Sometimes children hold a pencil in a certain way from habit and this can be very difficult to undo. As well as developing gross and fine motor skills sometimes we just need to teach and reinforce the correct way to hold a pencil and remind them every time they choose to draw or write.

Writing Letters

At Juniper Hill we teach how to write letters through the Read Write Inc Phonic programme. As letter sounds are introduced, we also teach how to form and write the letter. This is done by teaching a mnemonic phrase as they write the letters and by saying the sound as they write it. For example as they write 's' we teach them to say the phrase 'slither down the snake' or say the sound 'ssssss' as they are writing it. (More information on how we teach letter sounds will be explained in a different booklet) The mnemonic phrases we use have been included with this booklet.

As the children learn letter sounds we will be sending home some sheets for the children to practise writing the letters they have been taught. Some children may find forming the letters challenging or find writing them small on a sheet difficult. Writing the letters BIG is absolutely fine and helps most children memorise the formation of the letter. Remember to say the mnemonic phrase as they write them. As well as practising writing letters on the sheets they could also practise them

- In the air with their finger or using a toy such as a wand, lightsabre or sword.
- Using large chalks on a wall or fence outside or on the patio.
- On an easel or chalk board
- On whiteboards
- In sand or soil or glitter using a stick or paintbrush
- With water on the floor outside using a paintbrush in a pot of water.

Read Write Inc Handwriting at Home.

Below is a link to Read Write Inc youtube clip which has been made to help parents when they are supporting their child with handwriting at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD1yuISr3XA>

This clip refers to a home handwriting book wipe clean board and pen. These are part of a pack for home learning developed by Read Write Inc. The pack also contains the sounds cards the children use at school to help them learn the letters sounds . These are not essential to practise handwriting at home but if you would like to purchase the pack it can be bought from Amazon for £12.11.

The Pack is called "My Reading and Writing Kit 1"

The link is below.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Read-Write-Inc-Reading-blending/dp/0192748521/ref=redir_mobile_desktop?ie=UTF8&aaxitk=KblUOg8ZyJLkX1RrhJyPeg&hsa_cr_id=1102662100402&ref=sbx_be_s_sparkle_mcd_asin_2

Please note that the pack shows the letters without the lead out stroke for some letters. (b, f, g, j, k, o, p, v, w, y,) The resources can still be used you will just need to add the lead out stroke when practising the letters.