

Stages 1-3
Getting Ready to Write
and Learning Letters



Stages 4-6
Learning Joins, Words
and Spelling Patterns



Stages 7-8
Building Fluency
These later stages build
on the previous 6 stages
to teach writing fluency,
stamina and purpose.

Positive praise builds
confidence and
confidence builds
better handwriting.

Keep practice short
5-10 minutes is enough.
Little and often works best.
Stop before your child
becomes tired.

If You're Concerned



All children develop
handwriting at different
speeds. It is normal for writing
to look uneven while skills
are developing.

You may wish to speak to school if
your child:

- avoids writing regularly
- becomes very frustrated or upset
- tires very quickly
- struggles to form letters consistently
- continues reversing letters beyond Year 2/3

Handwriting at home

Tips to help your child

Stages
7-8



STAGE SEVEN

Children now learn that handwriting changes depending on the task.

They practise:

- neat presentation writing
- quicker note-taking
- clear printing for forms
- creative styles for posters

They also learn to choose the right writing tool.

Home Activity Style Switch



Ask your child to write the same word in two ways:

- neatly (as if for best work)
- quickly (as if taking notes)

Talk about:

- clarity
- spacing
- which suits the task best

STAGE EIGHT

At this stage, handwriting should feel automatic.

Children practise:

- copying
- dictation
- writing from memory
- writing longer pieces

The focus is:

- fluency
- consistency
- maintaining clarity over time

Home Activity Short Timed Challenge

Choose a short paragraph.
Write for one minute.

Afterwards, check:

- Is it still clear?
- Did letter size stay consistent?
- Is spacing even?

Tips to Make Writing Stick

Let children choose topics they care about.

Give real-life writing opportunities, for example shopping lists & birthday cards.

Celebrate effort with positive praise.

Join in, writing together makes it feel special.

NOTE: Handwriting may look different for different purposes - this is expected.

Speed develops naturally, without losing legibility.