

Stages 1-3
Getting Ready to Write
and Learning Letters



Stages 4-6
Learning Joins & Words
Once the skills for letter formation are built these stages will teach joining letters, words and spelling patterns.



Stages 7-8
Building Fluency
These later stages 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



STAGE FOUR

Children are now beginning lead-outs (small finishing strokes ready for joining).

ACTIVITY 1: Letter Hunt

Pick one letter of the week.
Find it in books, signs or packaging.
Then practise writing it five times correctly.

ACTIVITY 2: Air Writing

Pick a letter.
Form each in the air, remembering the lead out.
Say the movement as you go.
Guess the letter and take turns.

ACTIVITY 3: Word Practice (Little and Often)

Choose 3-5 common words.
Write each word once carefully.
Then write it again, focusing on smooth movement.
Letters are not joined yet.



STAGE FIVE

Children are now learning how letters join together.

ACTIVITY 1: Join Practice with Simple Words

Choose 3 short words such as:
cat, the, come
Write each word once slowly and carefully.
Focus on smooth joins and even spacing.
Stop before your child becomes tired.

ACTIVITY 2: Rainbow Words

Write one word lightly in pencil.
Trace over it in different colours.
This helps:

- reinforce correct direction
- build motor memory
- make repetition enjoyable

STAGE SIX

Children are now practising joined writing in real words and spelling patterns.

ACTIVITY: Spelling Pattern Practice

Choose 3-5 spelling words.
Write each word once carefully.
Then write them again in a short sentence.
Example: We are happy.
Focus on smooth joins and even spacing.

Writing may look more natural and less "careful" - this is part of becoming fluent.

The focus is:

- smooth, continuous writing
- consistent letter size
- steady spacing
- building stamina