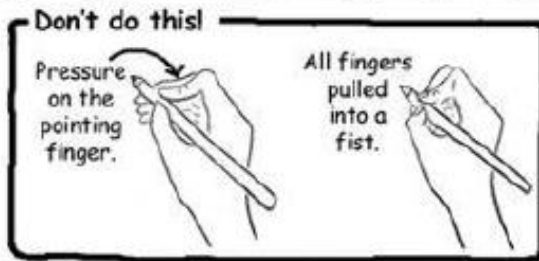


Key Stage One Handwriting



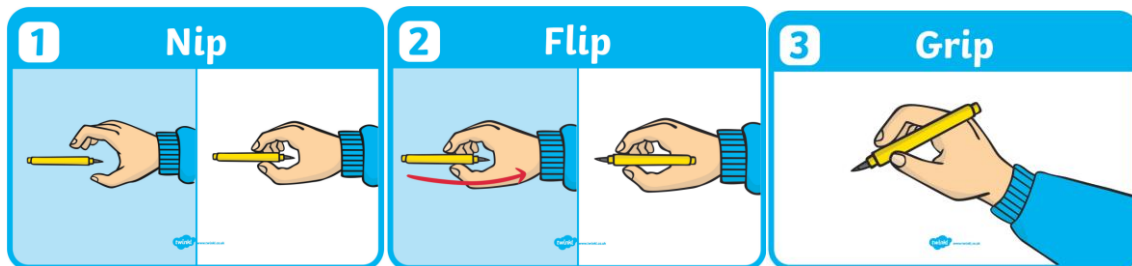
Shape - Are all letters properly formed and clear?

Joining - Are as many letters as possible joined consistently?

Evenness - Are letters of a consistent and reasonable size? Capitals can be too big; tall letters too tall, small letters too small.

Floating and Sinking - Do letters sit on the line? Words sometimes float above or sink below the writing line. This happens because the writing hand is not moving steadily across the page.

Particular Letters - Which letters are really well formed? Which ones need careful practise?



A range of activities can be used to encourage and support children develop gross and fine motor skills, develop co-ordination and to promote pencil control and awareness of letter shapes and orientation.

- Get children to warm up their hands with **play dough or plasticine**. There's lots of fun to be had with this and it can all help strengthen your child's hands. Whether you're building rockets, making animals, rolling worms, rolling balls, kneading, squeezing or flattening the plasticine, it all helps build strength and creativity.



- Get children to **follow patterns**



- **Use The Correct Paper** - Using lined, school-style paper will help your child to create letters which are the correct size and in proportion.

- **Slow Down** - Slower writing will enable your child to have more control over where they stop and start their letters. They will also be less likely to make mistakes.

- **Make Writing Fun** - It doesn't all have to be hard work. Try getting your child to draw pictures or to fill in the missing words in a story. The extra practice will help to improve grip and fine motor skills.

- Check their **formation**. Are they starting and finishing their pencil in the correct place?


PENPALS *for Handwriting*



Penpals: Example Letter formation with joins

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Rhymes for letter formation - taken from Read Write Inc.

<p>a</p>  <p>Around the apple and down the leaf.</p>	<p>b</p>  <p>Down the laces to the heel and around the toe.</p>	<p>c</p>  <p>Curl around the caterpillar.</p>	<p>d</p>  <p>Around the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck & down to his toes.</p>	<p>e</p>  <p>Lift off the top and scoop out the egg.</p>	<p>f</p>  <p>Down the stem and draw the leaves.</p>
<p>g</p>  <p>Around the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.</p>	<p>h</p>  <p>Down the head, to his hooves and over his back.</p>	<p>i</p>  <p>Down the body and dot for the head.</p>	<p>j</p>  <p>Down his body, curl, dot for his head.</p>	<p>k</p>  <p>Down the kangaroo's body tail and leg.</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>Down the long leg.</p>
<p>m</p>  <p>Down Maisie, mountain, mountain.</p>	<p>n</p>  <p>Down Nobby and over his net.</p>	<p>o</p>  <p>All around the orange.</p>	<p>p</p>  <p>Down the pirates plait and around his face.</p>	<p>qu</p>  <p>Round her head, up past her earring, down her hair, and flick.</p>	<p>r</p>  <p>Down the robots back and curl over his arm.</p>
<p>s</p>  <p>Slither down the snake.</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>Down the tower, across the tower.</p>	<p>u</p>  <p>Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle.</p>	<p>v</p>  <p>Down a wing, up a wing.</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>Down, up, down, up.</p>	<p>x</p>  <p>Down the arm and leg, repeat the other side.</p>
<p>y</p>  <p>Down a horn, up a horn and under head.</p>	<p>z</p>  <p>Zig-zag-zig.</p>				