

Handwriting at The Federation of Hannah More Infants and Grove Junior Schools

Guidance for early writers

Early stages of Reception focuses on physical development of muscles and hand eye coordination. We focus on their fine and motor skills and develop them with various activities:

- tweezers control
- threading beads onto laces
- rainbow ribbons (PE ones) to develop whole arm muscle and wrist
- play dough
- ball throwing
- buzzer games where they have to move the hoops around the wire without buzzing

The main focus to begin with is getting the correct pincer grip on the pencil. We often say 'Froggy pinch and rest' so they use their index finger and thumb like frogs legs to pinch and then rest on their middle finger.

While we are doing this we get them thinking about where you need to start the letters from and how to form them correctly.

By the end of KS1

Working towards the expected standards

- forming lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- forming lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another in some of the writing.
- using spacing between words.

Working at the expected level

- using the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters in some of their writing.
- writing capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- using spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Working at greater depth within the expected level

- using the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters in most of their writing.

By the end of KS2

Working towards the expected standards

- producing legible joined handwriting.

Working at the expected level

- maintaining legibility, fluency and speed in handwriting through choosing whether or not to join specific letters.

Working at greater depth within the expected level

- no additional requirements.

The rules for joining

i all letters start at the top except d and e

ii all similar letters should be the same height -i.e. lower case small letters to be half the height of the line space

iii all down strokes should be parallel

iv letter spacing -same distance apart

v all words have a space between (finger spacing)

vi two kinds of joins a) horizontal

b) diagonal

vii b, g, j, p, q, y and s are left unjoined

viii Capital letters should be the same height as l, h, d etc and do not join, f and t to be 3/4 height

ix where the individual letter stands with regard to the base line