

The benefits of cursive writing:

- it aids left to right movement across the page
- children can complete a whole word without lifting the pencil so it reduces the risk of reversals, inversions and omissions
- it prevents confusions between certain letters i.e. 'b' and 'd', 'f' and 't' and 'g', 'q' and 'p'
- it aids legibility and writing fluency for children with spatial and speed difficulties when writing
- hand movements support muscle memory and this aids the learning spelling patterns
- the joined letters mean the spaces between words are easier to see, especially for children who need support to write legibly
- left handed children are taught to start each letter at the bottom and move the page on an angle rather than 'hooking' their hand over their work, when printing, and so not being able to see what they are writing
- children are able to write quicker with the cursive script. This is especially important when working in a group and jotting ideas for writing quickly.



Fluency of writing helps with fluency of spelling therefore the teaching of phonics and spelling is closely linked to the teaching of handwriting. Handwriting does not take place in isolation. It is modelled by the teachers and staff whenever they are engaged in writing for the children and used across the curriculum and in many classroom displays.



The Croft Primary School

Handwriting Guide



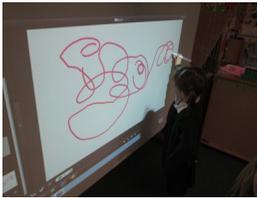
Learning at the heart and head of all we do.

Handwriting

Correct letter formation is encouraged by starting all letters on the line using an 'approach stroke' and all end with an 'carry-on stroke'.

When working with children we say that all letters start on the line from the bottom and end with a 'kick' ready to join to the next letter.

As well as rehearsing the letter shapes during phonics times we practise drawing patterns which include: circles, arches, lines, zigzags and hooks. As these all link the shapes within letters.



The activities below will help your child develop pencil control alongside all those fine motor activities we have shared before:

- □ colouring-in activities,
- □ tracing,
- □ drawing around shapes, templates,
- □ making letter shapes in playdough, in sand,
- on blackboards, whiteboards, playground floor etc. (not just on paper),
- □ painting, using finger paints or brushes, lolly sticks, chop sticks etc.



Above all we aim to make it fun!

Don't expect your child to copy exactly, it may look like scribble. Joining lines from left to right will help children get used to reading and writing from left to right. Try colouring small dots in a line with precision. All these activities will help in the development of correct letter formation later on.

A few tips....please,

1. always use a pencil (not a biro) for handwriting work
2. try to help your child develop a comfortable tripod pencil 'hold' - fun shaped pencil grips can help your child hold a pencil correctly
3. never force a child to write with one particular hand or another—some children will swap from left to right for a long time before knowing themselves which is the best hand to write with
4. but **DO** encourage them to hold a pencil or any writing implement correctly whichever hand they are using.



Other ideas for making learning to write fun;

- Use an old paint brush and a bucket of water to do handwriting patterns outside on paving stones or on a wall.
- Use big felt pens on scrap paper.
- Use the patterns for covers when you make books together.
- Let your child make a pattern for you to copy.
- Play 'joining up' games.
- Draw a dog on the left of the paper and a bone on the right. Ask your child to draw a line to join them up.



We encourage the writing of upper case/capital letters alongside the practise of lowercase/ small letters—Ss, Aa, Tt .We begin to explain that upper case letters are used for names and at the start of a sentence.