

Fine Motor skills



Have you tried any of these...?

- Threading beads onto pipe cleaners
- Poking straws into holes
- Making pasta necklaces
- Weaving around card
- Pipe-cleaners and colanders
- Make a matching lids game
- Painting with cotton buds

Any traditional activities are always a good place to start— Painting, drawing, cutting, colouring, helping with baking, sorting buttons/coins/pebbles.

Letter formation



We have taught the children how to write in cursive letter formation (joined up). There are lots of active ways you can teach this in the early stages as seen above—in sand, in chalk, flour or shaving foam and even by spraying water guns at the letters. If there are particular letters you know your child is forming incorrectly, please support them with these.

The letters can be organised into formation families

Straight lines - *l i t*

Curly Letters - *c a o d g q e s*

Top whoosh - *r v w*

Tunnels - *n m h b p u*

hooks, loops and lines - *j y f z k x*

It may be that it is just one of these families of formation that your child is finding more difficult. All the formation sheets can be found on the EYFS webpage (these include the rhymes) or ask your class teacher if there are particular sheets that you would like printed.

Learning spellings



In terms 5 and 6 we will be sending children home with some simple spellings to learn based on the phase 2 and 3 tricky words as well as words containing sounds that we have taught.

Here are a few strategies for learning these words.

- Stick spellings on post-it notes for them to find, read and trace with their fingers
- Write the letters on duplo or create simple writing templates for them when writing the words
- Write the letters using a white wax crayon for them to reveal, read and then trace over.
- Write the spellings on paper that you stick about the house which they can then find and copy.
- Rainbow letters/spellings—write your spellings in different coloured pens like the rainbow
- Write them out on an LCD screen, tablet, whiteboard, in sand, shaving foam - something that is different from simply pen and paper
- Challenge: write a sentence using your spellings to build in other skills taught.

Writing tips at home

- Give your child a notepad to write in when they are out and about. Even if the spellings are incorrect or they are just mark making, really encourage this effort as a way to value their play of writing.
- Make maps of where you're going or where you've been or treasure maps
- Help your child to write the words to go with photos or pictures and make them into a book.
- Write party invitations together or play cafes, your child can write the menu and write down what each person wants to eat.
- Encourage your child to label things using their name.
- Ask them to write the shopping list, list of items you need to fix, make something at home.
- Make your own comic strips using pictures from unwanted magazines or draw your own.

Photographs/visual pictures are a really good way to engage children.

- You could write a fact file of an animal that interests them or of their own pet.

Anything that you do, it is really important to value it and remember, they are learning to spell phonetically and so at the moment, they may only be using single sounds.



Why not create your own story by taking pictures of a toy out and about. You could order the pictures and create your own story map. Then write a recount of the trip they made. First... Then... Finally as