

Alwyn Infant School Handwriting Letter Families

Every letter begins on the line with lead ins and lead outs.

Curly letters/2 o'clocks		Loopy loops (revision of descenders below the line)	
c	suggested joins to practise letter family: co ca oo oa do cod odd dad add dog sad quad gag ee ea see sea	f	suggested joins to practise letter family: yell yes you jam jog foot fin by bye
a		y	
o		j	
d			
s			
q qu			
g			
e			
Straight letters		Extras	
i	suggested joins to practise letter family: ill lit till litt to cat sat cot eat heat old cold is us sun yell yes you jam jog	N	suggested joins to practise letter family: van vet have live gave with went saw swim zip zap buzz zoo fox fix exit
l		W	
t		Z	
u		X	
y			
j			
Tunnel letters		Capital letters and numbers 0 to 9 are also to be taught alongside the lowercase letters	
r	suggested joins to practise letter family: hum run hill mill nil nit mit him tin mum thin kit kilt but bad bill bit bell pit pin pad put		
n			
m			
h			
k			
b			
p			



Ensure curly letters, straight letters and tunnel letters are secure before moving onto loopy loops and extras.

Developing motor movements for handwriting

When the children first come to school they take part in lots of activities involving motor control.

For example: threading beads, using pegboards, moulding playdough, using tweezers, climbing etc.

These activities help to strengthen their fingers and improve their manual dexterity. It is also a great way to reinforce the vocabulary of movement- going round and round, making curves, springing up and sliding down, making long, slow movements or quick and jumpy. This will help with the formation of letters when they are ready.

Show the children how to make large movements in the air with their arms, hands and shoulders. Use both sides of the body. Encouraging skywriting with their magic fingers is a good way to encourage the large movements in the air. The children can also link these movements to music and nursery rhymes to reinforce the shapes and language.

Developing letter formation

The children also have lots of opportunities to practise pattern, shape and mark making using a vast range of mediums (pens, pencil, chalk, paint, sand etc) In reception, children are taught letter formation alongside phonics. They are given the choice of writing the basic letter shape or the lead in and lead out strokes. This enables children to develop confidence and writing ability at their own level of development. Teachers model both forms throughout the curriculum.

When ready, the children in year 1 will learn the cursive formation. It is important the children learn the correct way to form letters so they are ready to progress to making some letter joins in year 2.

Continuous Cursive Handwriting

With this style of writing, all the lower case letters begin on the line and each word is written without taking the pencil off the page, unless it is an x. With practise, this helps speed and fluency. The descenders all have loops and the children are less likely to reverse letters with this style because the pencil movement flows until the end of the word. The finger spaces are also clear to distinguish.

Continuous cursive also aids spellings as it develops alongside motor memory so the shapes of common letter strings become familiar.