



How can you help  
your child with their learning?



A B C D

A B C D E  
F G H I J  
K L M N O  
P Q R S T U  
V W X Y Z



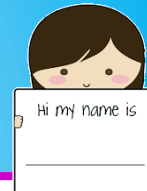
## How can you help your child in Reception?



Use a capital letter to start a sentence and a full stop to end it. Encourage children to label things so that writing has a purpose. Labelling a box of 'My toys' for example, is an opportunity to practise starting with a capital letter. Writing thank you letters e.g. 'Thank you for my gift.' is another great time to write with a purpose and practise letter formation.

### Form letters correctly

Once again, practice makes perfect. It is really important to introduce correct formation early so that unhelpful habits do not develop.



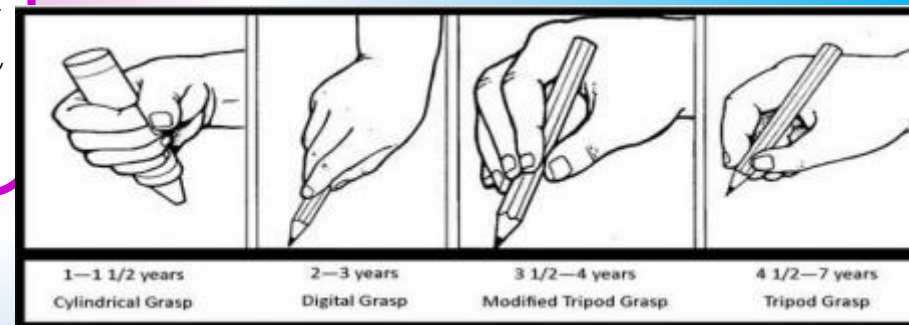
### Write their own name

Practise makes perfect here – an important skill and vital to practise at home.



### Use the correct pencil grip

Encourage lots of writing and drawing at home to develop their coordination. The pictures here show progression, some children may need guidance to use finger and thumb to guide the pencil.







Form capital letters, lower case letters and digits correctly. Letters must end in the right place to enable teachers to introduce joining

Practice makes perfect! Readable handwriting is so important and year one is the time to get this in place

Aa Bb  
Cc Dd

English



## How can you help your child in Year 1?

Write short stories or sections of information

Celebrate your child's enthusiasm for writing and give them plenty of opportunities to write. Make sure your child has paper and pencils available to them so that they can write when they want to, with gentle reminders about letter formation and correct punctuation.



Use capital letters to start sentences, peoples' names and the word 'I'  
Whenever your child is writing, remind them of these capital letter rules.  
Encourage them to check back over their work.





Use present tense and past tense confidently  
Correct your child if they make mistakes in their use of tense and support them to repeat their sentence correctly.  
For example, if they tell you, "I 'writ' a story today!" please correct to 'wrote'.



## How can you help your child in Year 2?



### Begin to join handwriting

Letter formation must be correct for joining to be effective. Help your child by showing them how to write letters they are forming incorrectly. Particularly tricky letters when we begin to join tend to be 'a' (the shape of which also begins the letter d and g) and 'n' and 'm' which many children start on the bottom line instead of at the top of the lettering

### Use detail and description in writing

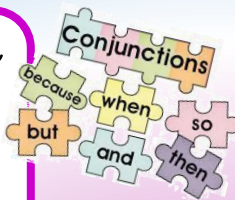
If children add detail to their descriptions when they speak, they are more likely to add this to their writing. Encourage use of precise vocabulary, e.g. 'delicious' rather than 'good'.





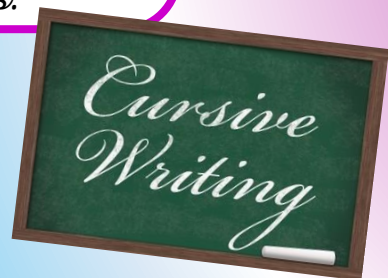


Extend sentences by using conjunctions  
Ensure that children use the following words in order to add information to their sentences: when, so, before, after, while and because. They need to spell these words correctly too.



Use joined handwriting that is clear to read

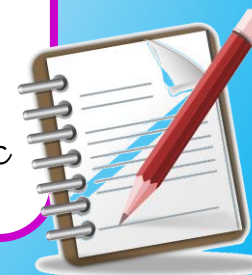
Have high expectations of your child's writing when they write at home. Ensure they are joining consistently as this will help them to quite more quickly as their skill develops.



## How can you help your child in Year 3?

Organise writing clearly, grouping sentences into paragraphs

Children may wish to write extended pieces at home, which should be celebrated, but structured spoken English can also help with this area. By thinking about the order children will say something, they naturally group ideas together. Help your child by expecting them to explain themselves clearly, rather than jumping from topic to topic or waiting for an adult to fill in the blanks





abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Write clearly and legibly,  
using a joined style  
Encourage your child to  
take pride in the  
presentation of their work  
and take plenty of  
opportunities to practise  
their handwriting.



## How can you help your child in Year 4?

### Use adverbs to begin sentences and link paragraphs

Adverbs often tell when, where, why, or under what conditions something happens or happened. They often end in -ly (though not all -ly words are adverbs!) Encourage your child to use these words in their speaking so they have plenty of ideas when they come to write.



### Use nouns and pronouns appropriately

Children should be encouraged to read back over their sentences to make sure that is clear WHO they are talking about. They may need to use a pronoun (e.g. he, she, it, they) to remind the reader who they are referring to, without repeating the character's name.







Show how possible something is by using modal verbs and adverbs

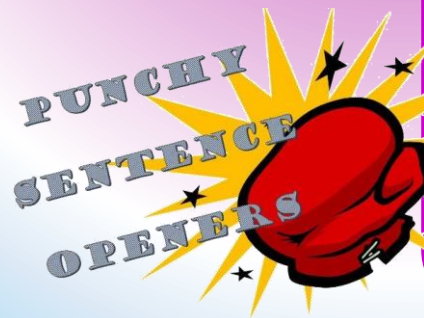
Modal verbs (should, would, could, will, might) and adverbs (such as perhaps and surely) express possibility. Thinking about the use of these in speech will help your child to transfer these skills to their writing.



Use joined handwriting  
Practise makes perfect!



## How can you help your child in Year 5?



### Use a range of sentence openers

When your child begins a piece of writing, ask them to think about ways they could start their sentences. They will talk about this in school and often need a reminder in order to produce their best writing. Some examples include beginning with: - a verb (to get the reader into the action): 'Dashing quickly across the snowy path, Alex...' - speech (to create a sense of being in the scene): "Help!" cried Alex as he... - adverbial phrase (for description): 'Shimmering gold coins lay before Alex as he...'



Use layout matched to the type of writing they are doing

If your child is about to write, ask them what they would expect their finished piece to look like. Would it have a title? A diagram? Subheadings? Paragraphs? Help them to consider how best to set out their writing before they begin.



## How can you help your child in Year 6?



Use paragraphs to signal changes in time, scene, action, mood or person

Encourage planning before writing begins. A story plan can help children organise their thoughts around specific point, such as changing scene or introducing details about a new character.



Use expanded noun phrases (a group of words acting like a name of something)

Building in description helps writers pack information into a sentence. For example, in the sentence, 'The noisy group, sitting behind me in the cinema, were a real distraction.' The people are referred to as 'the noisy group sitting behind me in the cinema' instead of just 'the people'. Encourage your child to add detail to their writing by building in descriptions like this.