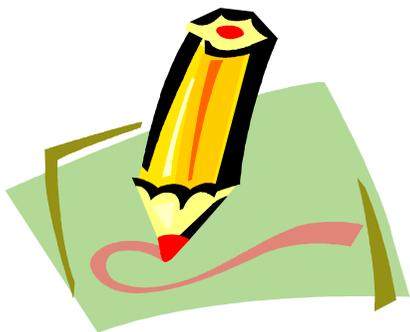


# Chudleigh Church of England Primary School



## How to help your child to learn to write



### Early Writing Development

Children show natural curiosity about writing from watching adults and will start to show interest in writing when they play, for example by pretending to write a shopping list. This is their attempts at behaving like a real writer and is the beginning of your child's journey to learn to write. Encouraging them to see the value and purpose in writing will help your child to understand the reasons why we write and that it carries a message. Initially your child will make marks on paper that resemble scribble to us but they will be able to tell you about what they have 'written'. You can support your child's interest in writing by:

- Allowing them to play with different writing materials and paper including chalks, crayons, pencils, paints and brushes.
- Exploring fun ways to make marks like writing in sand or using sticks to write in mud.
- Encourage your child to engage in real life writing activities like writing their name in a birthday card.
- Point out words you see in the environment
- Show interest in any writing your child does, talk to them about it and praise their efforts.

The first word your child will learn to write correctly is their name. Help your child to recognise the letters in their name when you are reading books together. Often children write capital letters first because they are all around us and children notice them because they stand out. It is important to show them how to write their name with a capital letter at the beginning and then the lower case letters. Please encourage your child to use lower case letters and show them what they look like.

### Learning to Write

Learning to write is very closely linked with learning to read. Your child will first learn the sounds letters make when they see them (Reading) and then how to form each letter (Writing).

You can help your child by:

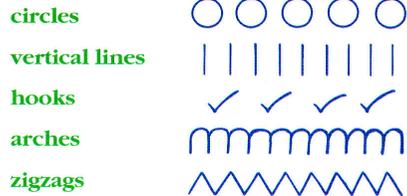
- Providing opportunities to develop good fine motor control needed to hold a pencil and form letters like using scissors, threading and playing with play dough.
- Encouraging them to start their writing in the right place and write from left to right across the page.
- Let your child watch you write and talk to them about what you are writing.
- Help them to learn to write their own name, make labels, books, cards etc.
- Encourage them to 'have a go' at writing a word as it's best for children not to be over reliant on copying from adults.
- Encourage your child to think about what they want to write first and to tell you, this oral rehearsal is a good habit for when your child becomes more confident and starts writing more and forming sentences.



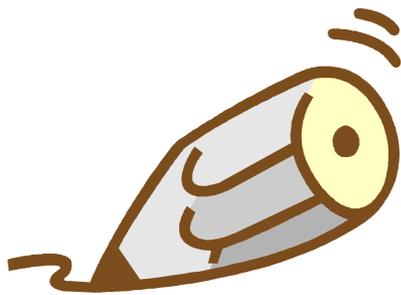
## Handwriting

At first your child's writing may be untidy or very big, try not to worry too much about this as you want to encourage your child's interest in writing. It is important to help foster good letter formation so your child learns the correct way to write letters from the start.

The shapes which most letters are based on:



You could practise these at home but try and make it part of something real, not just an exercise. Maybe it could be patterns round a card for someone. Drawing games will help your child to control their pencil. Try and encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly and use different types of pencils and pens. If your child is struggling to hold a pencil correctly, chunky pens can help. Playing games like writing letters on each other's backs or 'air writing' letters can be fun ways of practising letter formation.



## Spelling

Lots of children find spelling difficult. When your child is learning to write they will record the sounds they can hear in words. They may write 'b' or 'bs' for 'bus'. At this stage it isn't necessary to correct your child's writing. Try not to worry about spelling because you want your child to be keen to write and have a go at writing new words.

Help your child with spelling by:

- Spelling words with fridge magnets or letter tiles and taking letters out and getting your child to put them back.
- Encouraging them to sound out and have a go at writing words.
- Giving your child letters to look at when writing to help with remembering how to write them.
- Always praising your child's efforts.



## Letter formation

We follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme.

