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Handwriting Policy

Formal pre-handwriting patterns and letter formation

- Ensure that the sitting position and height of the table is right.
- Body position and paper position should also be taught.
- Tripod grip – should be taught. Some children are ready at 4, most by 5 and a few not until they are 6. Age is not an issue it should be about when they are physically ready.
- Teach lower case letters first and the capital letter of the child's name.
- Start on plain paper as the aim at this stage is to learn how to form the letters correctly not size or neatness, that comes later.
- To help and reinforce the idea of letter proportions and positioning coloured paper could be used – sky, grass and earth- as it can create a sub-conscious memory in a child's mind of where particular letters sit in relation to others.
- It can be easier to talk through the formation of how a shape or letter is formed with pictorial and colour clues to guide and inform the direction of the movements required.
- It is better to teach letter formation in groups/ families rather than in alphabetical order. These are based on the orientation and shapes needed to form the letters. This approach can help prevent children developing certain letter reversal issues such as 'b' and 'd' as they are taught in different groupings.

AIM:

- To produce and maintain a good speed.
- Have a fluid hand movement that is comfortable.
- Letters are of a consistent and appropriate size, positioned correctly.
- Handwriting is legible.

Why the continuous cursive style?

It's most important feature is that each letter is formed without taking the pencil off the paper - and consequently, each word is formed in one, flowing movement.

Key advantages:-

- By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape.

- Because letters and words flow from left to right, children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (b/d or p/q)
- There is a clearer distinction between capital letters and lower case.
- The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed and spelling.

www.teachhandwriting.co.uk

Games and activities to strengthen posture, bi-lateral co-ordination, sensory perception and hand and finger strength.

National Handwriting Association.

Continuous cursive script

Example: - *abc joined up* – on ipad

Teach each formation

Up and over family

Straight up family

Letters that join from the bottom

Letters that join from the top
