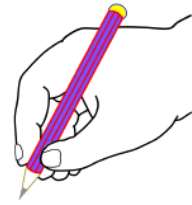


Learning letter formation

It is very important that a child holds their pencil in the correct way. The pencil should be held in the 'tripod' grip between the thumb and first two fingers. If a child's hold starts incorrectly, it is very difficult to correct later on.



The grip is the same for both left-handed and right-handed children.

A child needs to form each letter the correct way. The letter c is introduced in the early stages, as this forms the basic shape of several letters, such as d and g.

Particular problems to look for are:

- o – the pencil stroke must be anticlockwise, not clockwise
- d – the pencil must start in the middle, not at the top
- m and n – there must be an initial down stroke

Early Years Foundation Stage Handwriting Patter

| | |
|---|---|
| c | over the top and round |
| o | over the top and all the way round |
| a | over the top and round, up, down, flick |
| d | over the top and round, all the way up, down, flick |
| g | over the top and round, up, down, give it a tail |
| q | over the top and round, up, down, flick |
| s | over the top and round and around the other way |
| e | across and round |
| | |
| b | straight down, up to the middle, round to the bottom |
| h | straight down, up to the middle, over and flick |
| l | straight down, flick |
| k | straight down, up to the middle, loop and flick |
| p | straight down, up to the top, round to the middle |
| t | down and round, take your pencil off, and across |
| | |
| f | over the top, straight down, round the other way and across |
| j | straight down, round, give it a dot |
| i | short down, flick, give it a dot |
| | |
| m | down, up, over, up, over and flick |
| n | down, up, over and flick |
| r | down, up and over and flick |
| | |
| u | down, round, up, down, flick |
| y | down, round, up, down, give it a tail |
| | |
| v | down, up |
| w | down, up, down, up |
| x | across and across |
| z | straight, across, straight |

Children are taught how to form pre-cursive letters in Key Stage 1.