Helping Your Child Become a Writer



Understanding writing from Reception to Year 2

Why is writing important?

Expresses thoughts and feelings

Develops communication skills

Develops creativity and imagination

Supports learning across the curriculum

Builds confidence and independence



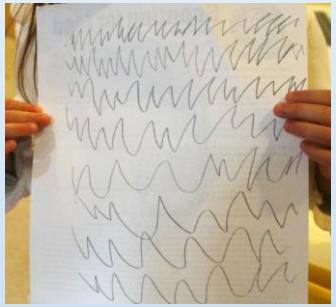


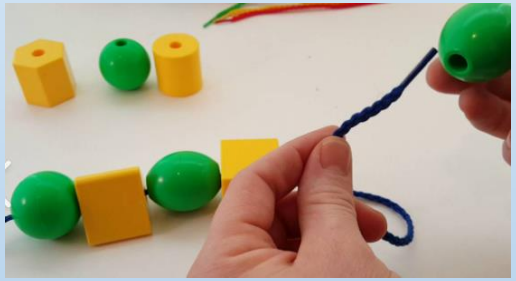




Building Fine Motor Skills Before Writing

Fine motor skills are the small movements we make using our hands and fingers.







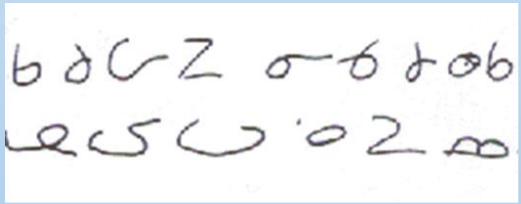


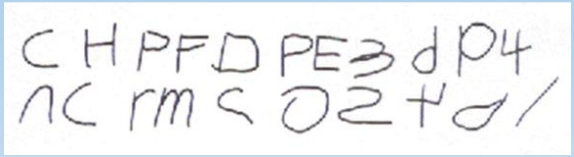
Writing is a complex skill. Children need:

- *Strong hand and finger muscles.*
- *Good hand-eye coordination.*
- *Finger control.*
- *The ability to use both hands together.*
- *Control when holding and using tools.*
- *Shoulder, arm and core strength to support posture.*

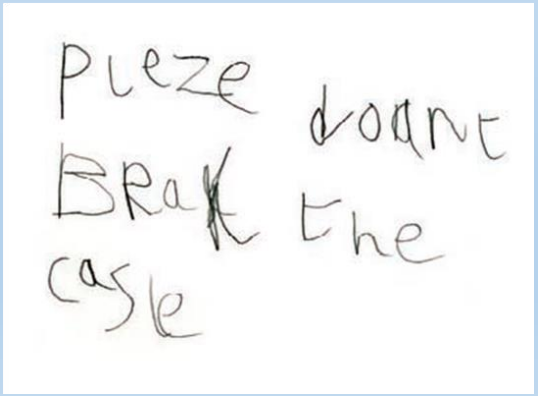
What does writing look like in Reception?







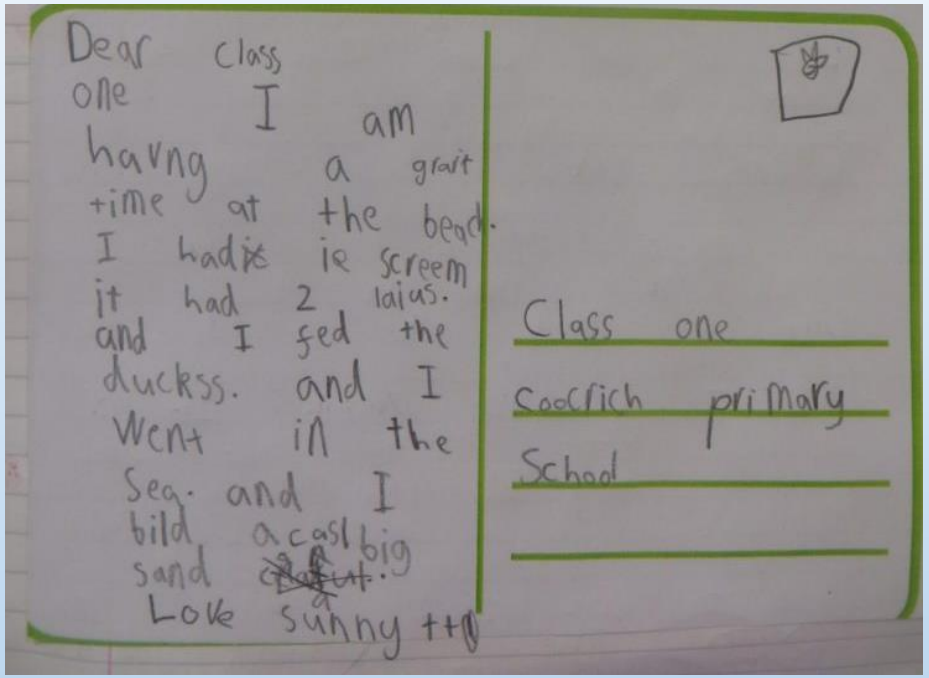


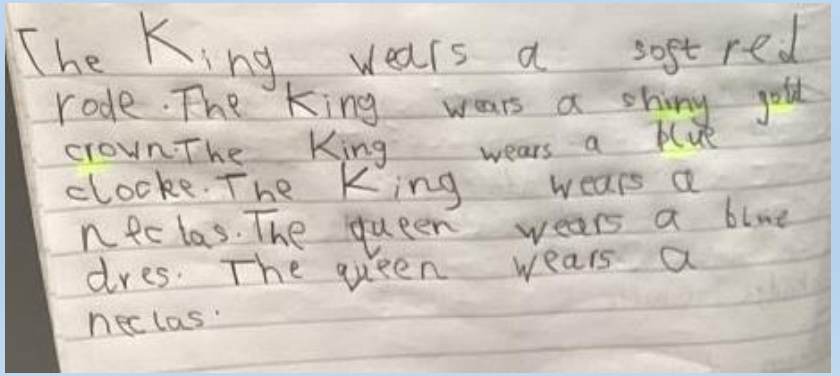


- Draw, mark make and give meaning to marks.
- Write recognisable letters.
- Hear sounds in words and attempt to spell them.
- Write simple words and sentences.
- Say ideas aloud before writing.

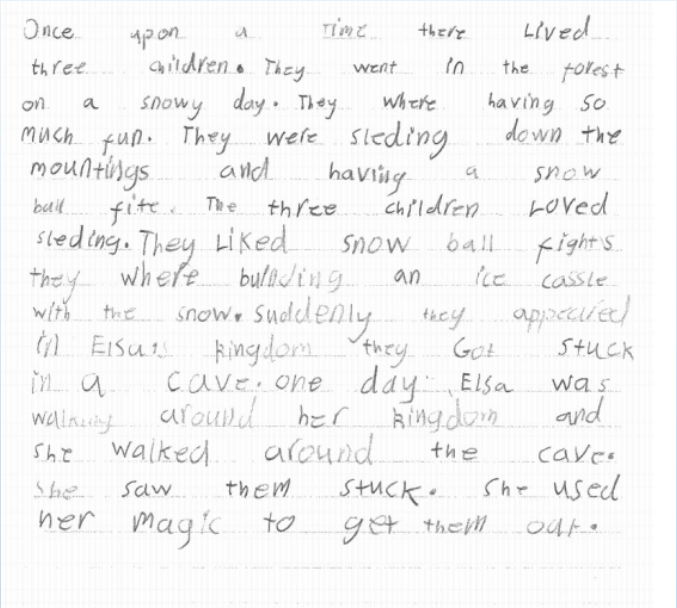
What does writing look like in Year 1?

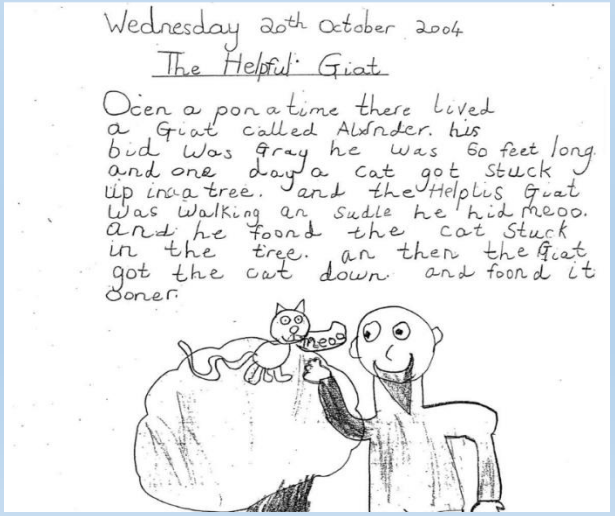
- Write sentences independently.
- Use phonics to spell unfamiliar words.
- Use capital letters and full stops.
- Leave spaces between words.
- Write short stories, recounts and descriptions.
- Develop correct letter formation.
- Spell some tricky words
- More control over the formation of letters while writing on the line





What does writing look like in Year 2?


Once upon a time there Lived three children. They went in the forest on a snowy day. They where having so much fun. They were sleding down the mountings and having a snow ball fite. The three children Loved sleding. They Liked snow ball fights they where building an ice cassle with the snow. Suddenly they appeared in Elsas kingdom they Got stuck in a cave. one day Elsa was walking around her kingdom and she walked around the cave. She saw them stuck. She used her magic to get them out.


Wednesday 20th October 2004

The Helpful Giat

Ocen a pon a time there lived a Giat called Alxnder. his bid Was Gray he was 60 feet long and one day a cat got stuck up in a tree. and the Helplis Giat Was Walking an Sudle he hid meoo. and he foond the cat Stuck in the tree. an then the Giat got the cat down and foond it doner.

- Writing longer pieces with several sentences.
- Developing more stamina for writing
- Beginning to use joining words (and, because, but, so).
- Developing spelling accuracy.
- More consistent use of punctuation (capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas apostrophes where appropriate)
- More control over handwriting. It is becoming smaller and consistent in size. They may begin to join some letters together.
- Writing more independently for different reasons
- Using a wider range of vocabulary.
- Using different sentence types(statements, questions, exclamations, and commands).
- Beginning to join handwriting when ready.

Handwriting

At school we use the Penpals scheme for handwriting.
Penpal develops handwriting gradually.

Fine motor skills and pencil control.

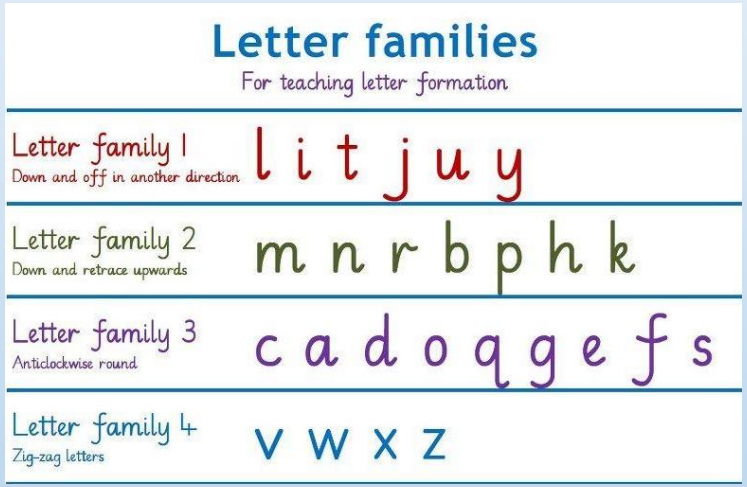
Correct letter formation.

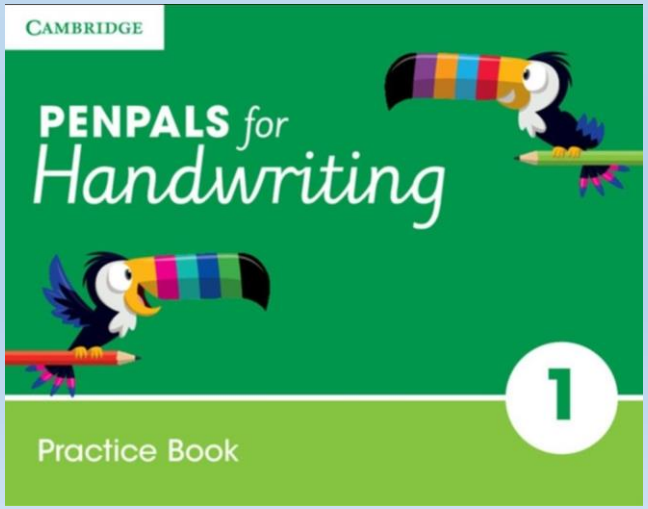
Consistent letter size and spacing.

Developing fluency.

Introducing simple joins when children are ready.







Why is Reading So Important for Writing?

Reading and writing go hand in hand.



- ***Reading is one of the most important foundations for early writing.*** *Before children can write their own stories, sentences and ideas, they need to develop an understanding of language, words and how stories work.*



"Tell me about your picture."

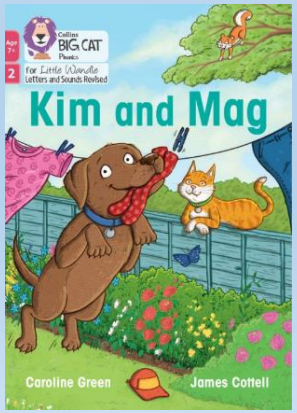
"What sounds do you hear in that word?"

"What can you see?"

"Tell me your sentence first."

"What do you want your writing to say?"

"What sound can you hear at the start/middle/end?"



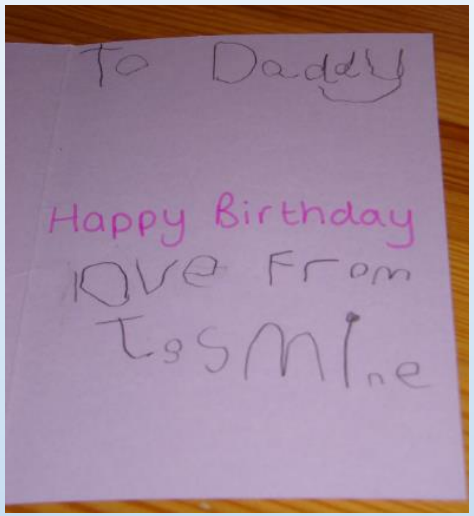
How can you support at home?

- Read stories together every day.
- Talk about what happened during the day.
- Encourage your child to tell you a story.
- Practise writing shopping lists.
- Write birthday cards, letters, signs, labels, notes and diaries
- Play with playdough to strengthen fingers.
- Practise letter formation using pencils, chalk or paintbrushes.
- Praise effort, not just correct spelling.
- Encourage your child to sound out words.
- Let your child see you writing too.









Questions?

