



Handwriting in the EYFS

By the end of Reception, children are expected to use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed. Children progress through the developmental stages before they have the necessary hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills and visual discrimination to produce conventional handwriting.

Stage 1 - Ideas to Develop Gross Motor Skills

- Use arms and hands to write huge letters in the air
- Wash bicycles and cars with sponges and water
- Painting walls and ground with water and large paintbrushes
- Making large patterns with paint on old wallpaper
- Climbing
- Swing ball type activities
- Hoop rolling
- Swirl sticks with ribbon

Stage 2 - Ideas to Develop Hand-eye Coordination and Fine Motor Skills

- Cutting with scissors
- Playing musical instruments
- Cooking
- Pouring water
- Ball and bat games
- Painting – various sized brushes, finger painting
- Using clay/ playdough
- Drawing – pencils, felt-tips, chalk, crayons
- Making patterns in wet or dry sand with fingers
- Pegging clothes onto a washing line
- Manipulating small world toys
- Using malleable materials with a variety of tools, for example; clay, playdough, compost, plasticine, shaving foam, pasta, chopsticks, cutters, scissors, potato mashers
- Lacing and threading
- Building with Lego or other small construction toys