

In Year 1 and 2 the teachers reinforce the consistent letter formation and ensure children have good control regarding letter size and placement on the line.

Some letters are stretchers:-

(start at the top
except for d)

l t b h k f d

Some letters are dangles:-

j y g f p q

but all letters sit on the line

c a e o i m n r s u v w x

How to help your child with handwriting



Together we can make a difference

Foundation and Key Stage 1

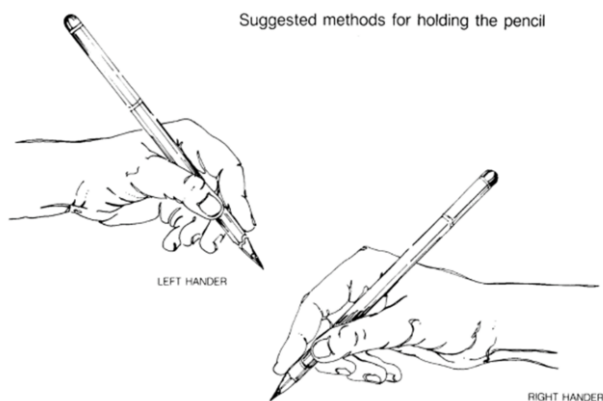
When the children are younger we help children to build their fine and gross motor skills. At home you can develop this by encouraging children to skywrite, use brushes and water to begin to write letter shapes, tracing letters in sand, sewing and weaving activities, playing with small construction toys, picking up small objects like beads, sprinkling sand and glitter.

Make it fun!

Any extra handwriting work that you complete with your child needs to be fun; otherwise it can turn into an unpleasant chore! Presenting work for a purpose, such as a thank you letter or a party invitation is a good opportunity to reinforce letter formation. Here at Bexton we love children to take a pride in their work!

What should my child write with?

Children generally use a pencil to write and draft work. When the teacher feels a child is ready they will allow them to write with a handwriting pen. We encourage children to write with a fibre tipped pen rather than biro.



Key Stage 2

By the end of Year 2 the children are beginning to join their letters, sizing letters consistently. Some children are keen to print their handwriting later on in Key Stage 2, but we encourage them to continue to join as it is neater, more fluent and efficient.

Link to spellings

Research has confirmed the natural link between spelling and handwriting. When your child is learning new spellings encourage them to form their letters carefully, as this will help them remember the visual pattern of the spellings.

How should my child sit?

The child's chair and table should be at a comfortable height. Encourage your child to sit up straight and not slouch. Their feet should also be flat on the floor.

What if my child can't hold the pencil properly?

We encourage children to use a tripod grip, as this is generally accepted as the most efficient. However, if your child uses a different grip but writes neatly, is comfortable and doesn't grow tired quickly then there is no need to change the grip.

What if my child is left handed?

Being left handed can sometimes make handwriting a little more awkward. Good positioning of the paper can make a real difference. Place the paper to the left of the body mid-line and tilt the top of the paper clockwise up to a maximum of 45°. This should automatically bring the hand into the correct writing position- underneath the writing line.

In Year 3 children begin to learn how to join their letters. Please note that all letters start from the line when joining and that capital letters do not join at all.

How to write letters

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z