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What is continuous cursive handwriting?

Cursive (also known as *script*, *longhand* or *joined-up writing*, among other names) is any style of penmanship in which some characters are written joined together in a flowing manner, generally for the purpose of making writing faster

There are two types 'fully' and 'part' cursive.

We are using the fully or continuous cursive, where every letter in a word is joined, so you don't lift the pen off the paper until the end of the word.

Why do we use continuous cursive handwriting?

We teach fully cursive handwriting right from the start. The main benefit is that children tend to reach fluency faster.

How is it taught in class?

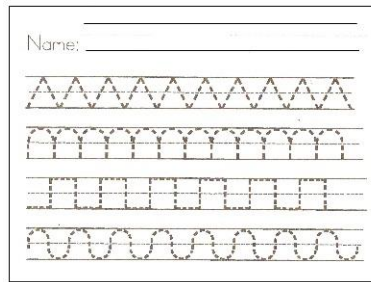
When learning cursive handwriting, children are not taught letters in alphabetical order, but in groups according to their formation: for example, 'a', 'c', 'e' and 'o' are taught together because they're all based on an anticlockwise circle.

We also link cursive handwriting to our phonic teaching e.g. ay, ai, ae, ey, eigh, ei etc

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First the Reception children are being taught handwriting patterns alongside gross and fine motor activities which support them to learn the different pen moves needed to then form cursive letters.



Then they are taught to form individual letters first, each letter is written with a lead-in and lead-out stroke or flick, this paves the way for learning to join them later when they are ready. There are four basic letter shapes: l, c, r, and w.

The children are taught to write in different letter families such as the one for c.

c a d g q o e

Gross Motor Skills

Large motor skills develop rapidly during the early childhood years. Large motor skills concern the development of larger muscle movements on both sides of the body that are responsible for running, jumping, throwing, rolling over and sitting up. Large motor skills need to be effective and proficient for fine motor dexterity to work well for skills like writing to develop successfully.

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Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills is the coordination of small muscles, in movements usually involving the synchronisation of hands and fingers with the eyes to enable activities such as writing to occur.



The Nine Key Handwriting Patterns

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A child needs to be able to copy 9 basic shapes before being perceptually ready to learn to write



Using 'shape families' to teach letter formation

The four groups are:-

1. Down and off in another direction
i, j l t u
2. Down and retrace upwards
r, b, h, k, m, n, p, r,
3. Anti - clockwise round
c, a, d, e, g, o, q, f, s,
4. Zigzag letters
v, w, x, z

Good writing posture

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Good posture is important for cursive writing. We encourage children to sit with their feet flat on the floor, their back straight and relaxed shoulders. The non-writing hand rests on the paper they are writing on. Some children find it easier if their paper is at a slight angle. You can turn the paper up to 45 degrees in either direction.

We aim for 90 degrees at the ankle, knees and hips.

The tummy button should be in line with the edge of the table

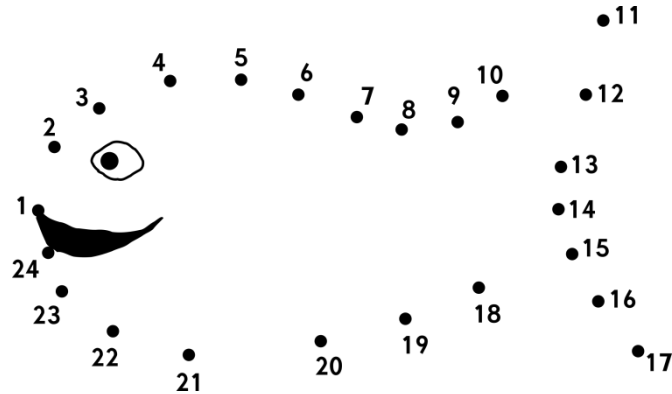
What can families do at home to support good handwriting?

- Practise with felt tips and gel pens they have a nice fluid delivery of ink
- If your child is using a pencil, the softer B pencils are generally easier to write with as they move more fluently across the page
- Lined paper can help your child achieve uniformity in their handwriting, but plain paper is also good for practising cursive. Lines can be quite constraining, so

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- You can also encourage your child to do other non-writing activities to improve their fine motor control, such as colouring and dot-to-dot puzzles.



- Keep handwriting practice separate from homework
- Make writing fun and positive.
- If you would like further information please see your class teacher

Our academy joined handwriting font

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll

Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww

Xx Yy Zz

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