

Supporting Handwriting

Parent's Workshop

January 2019

Mrs Sandmann & Mrs Smuts

Correct Pencil Grip

- Tripod Grip – holding a pencil with thumb, index (pointer) and middle finger.



Pencil Grip

- Tips for encouraging correct pencil grip:
 - ✓ Picking up pencil with thumb and index finger and let 'fall back' onto hand ('Pinch and Flip')
 - ✓ Using 'chunky' or shorter pencils
 - ✓ If persistently holding pencil incorrectly, use rubber grip on pencil
 - ✓ Holding cotton wool ball or pom-pom in hand to help with correct pencil grip
 - ✓ Be vigilant and correct grip whether drawing, colouring, writing or painting

Resources

- *Pencil grips – for finger positioning*



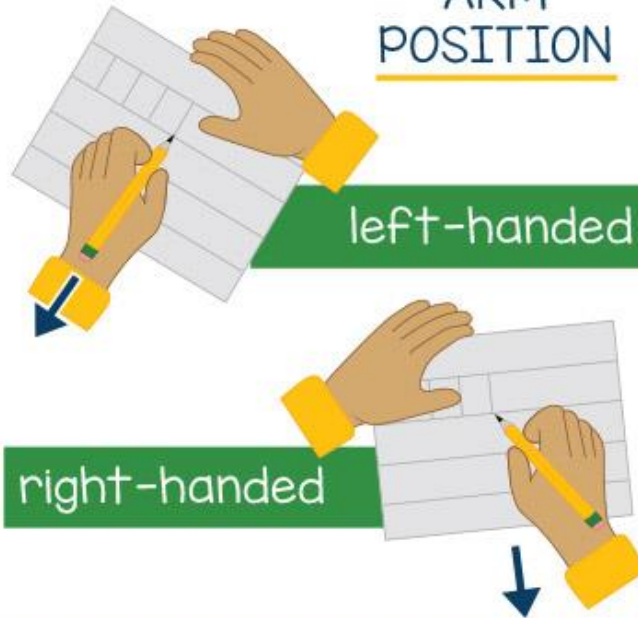
Posture

CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HANDWRITING POSITION

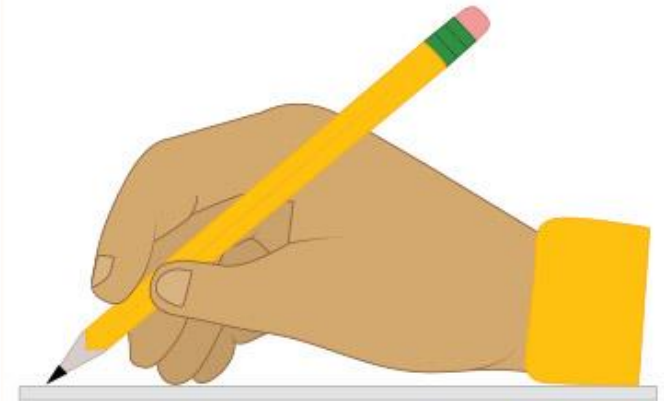
BODY
POSTURE



ARM
POSITION



PENCIL
GRIP



Why Cursive?

- *The key advantages are:*

- By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a '**physical memory**' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape;
- Each letter starts in the same place – at the line;
- Writing flows because they don't need to lift their pencil off the paper
- Leads into joining writing at the end of KS1 (Year 2)

Why Cursive?

- There is a **clearer distinction** between capital letters and lower case;

C c

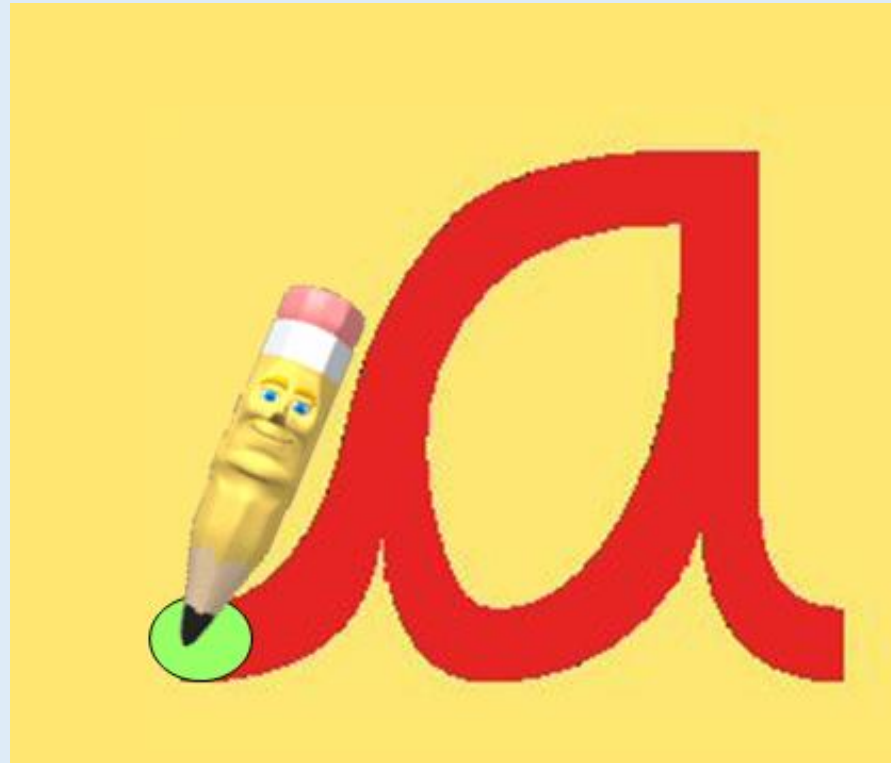
S s

C c

S s

How to teach handwriting

1. **Model** how to form the letter.



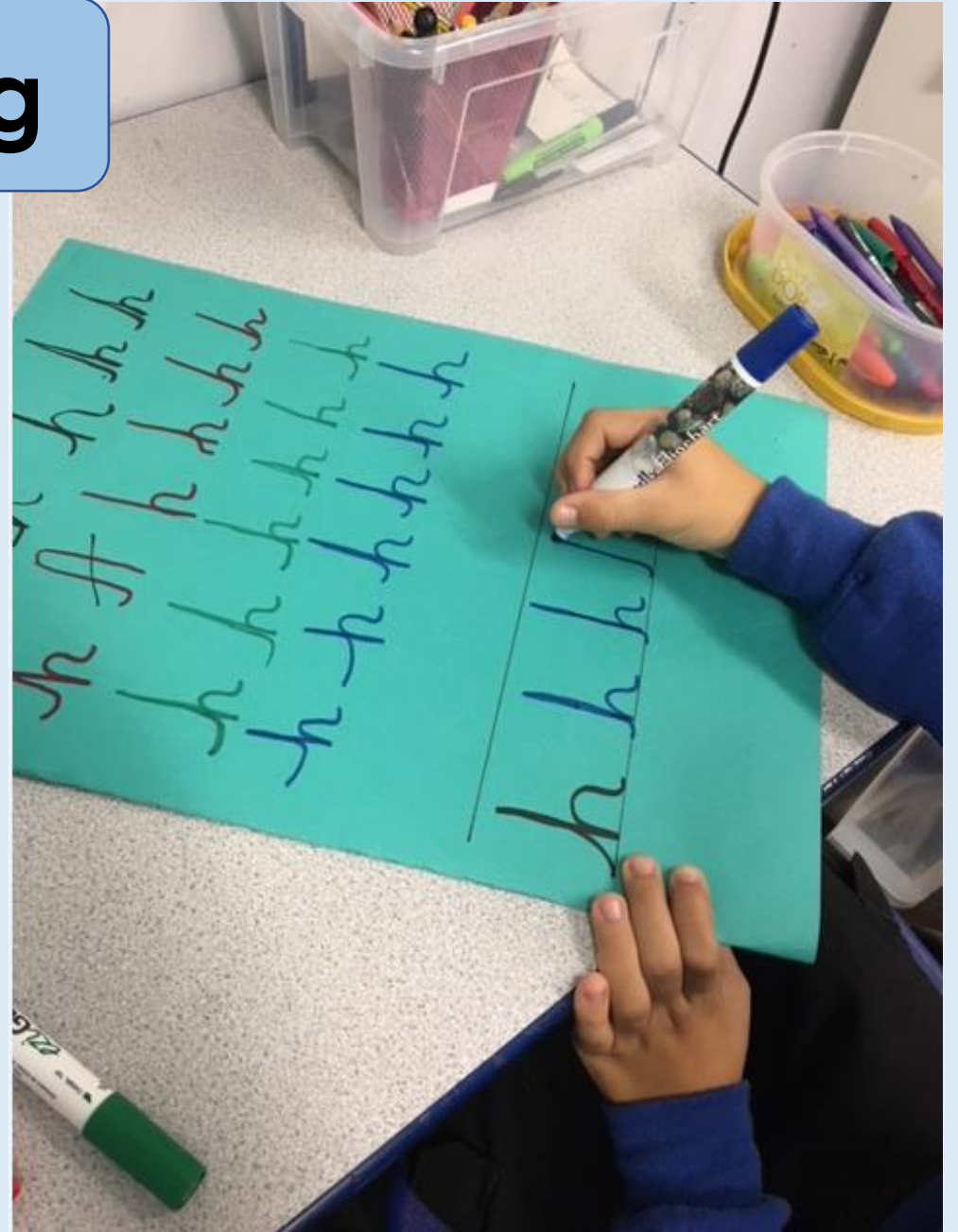
How to teach handwriting

2. Practise in sand, cornflour, shaving foam, bubbles in their bath, etc.



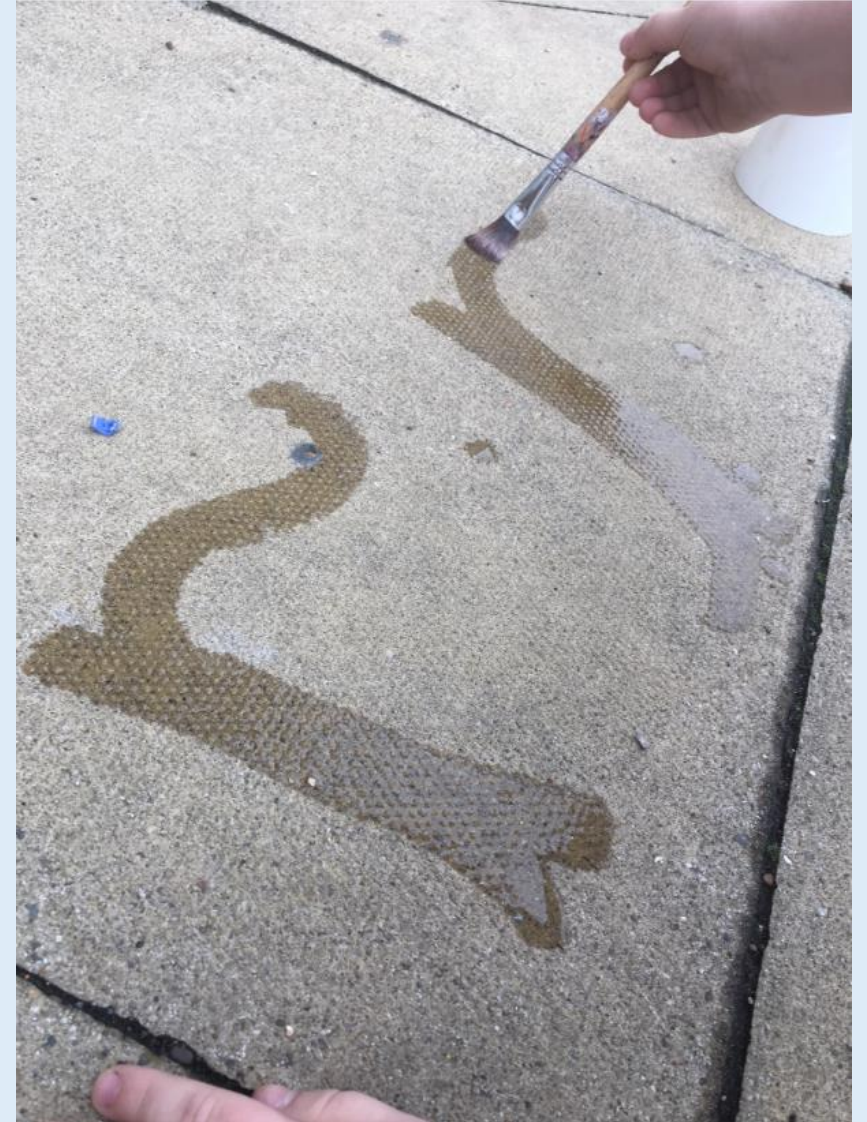
How to teach handwriting

3. Practise with pens on paper, whiteboards, etc.




How to teach handwriting

4. Practise with a paintbrush and water.



Tricky Bits

- Capital letters – don't write them in cursive
- Leading lines – don't add on afterwards!
- Anti-clockwise movement on circular letters
- Retracing vertical lines, e.g. *h, t, n, m*
- Letters that descend below the line 

Activities to develop fine-motor skills

- Using tweezers to pick things up
- Using chopsticks
- Threading beads
- Sewing
- Playdough
- Weaving
- Peg-boards
- Depositing coins through slot / Posting items
- Pegging up washing
- Screwing and un-screwing lids
- Finger Games – finger isolation

Resources

- Find this powerpoint on e-schools and school website
- Letter formation powerpoint on e-schools and school website
- Posture and pencil grip handout
- Cursive alphabet handout
- Pom poms / pencil grips (only if needed!)

- We can provide practice sheets for specific letters – just ask!