



Progression of Handwriting

Letter and Number formation	Letter joins
<p>Listed, are the four-letter families and the order that they are taught:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Curly Caterpillar Letters: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f 2. Ladder Letters: l, i, t, u, j, y 3. One-Armed Robot Letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p 4. Zigzag Monster Letters: v, w, x, z <p>Digits 0-9 Capital Letters Capital letters A-Z – do not join to lower case letters</p>	<p>Listed, are the four main joins and order that are taught and examples of the joins:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ai, ar, un, am, ear, aw, ir, hu, ti, ki, du, up, ag, fe, fu. 2. Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. ab, ul, it, ib, if, ub, th, ck, ch, it, ft, fl. 3. Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ri, ru, ve, we, re. 4. Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ri, ru, ve, we, re.

Early Years curriculum expectations:

- Children handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing.
- Use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Teach children to form letters correctly.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYS	<p>Focus on mark making and developing fine motor skills through a range of activities, such as ‘Dough Disco’.</p> <p>Teach the correct seating position. Teach the correct pencil Grip. Trace patterns. Create marks using different materials. Use mark-making tools with control. Draw lines and circles using large scale movements. Learn to write (copy) own name. Trace and copy letters as taught alongside RWI – m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f Form the digits 0-4 correctly.</p>	<p>As Autumn term plus: Tracing and copying letters as taught alongside RWI – e, l, h, r, j, v, y, w, z, q, x</p> <p>Form the digits 5-9 correctly</p> <p>Write own name independently with a capital letter to start.</p>	<p>Consolidation of letter formation of lower-case letters.</p> <p>Curly Caterpillar: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f Ladder: l, i, t, u, j, y One-Armed Robot: r, b, n, h, m, k, p Zigzag Monster: v, w, x, z</p> <p>Use and apply letter formation in writing activities.</p>

Year 1 curriculum expectations:

Pupils should be taught to:

- sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- form capital letters
- form digits 0–9
- understand which letters belong to which handwriting ‘families’ (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Y1	As Early Years plus: Form the digits 0-9 correctly. Form lower-case letters correctly: Curly Caterpillar: c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f	Ladder: l, i, t, u, j, y One-Armed Robot: r, b, n, h, m, k, p Begin to form capital letters correctly.	Zigzag Monster: v, w, x, z Continue forming capital letters. Continue recapping forming any letters pupils find difficulty with.

Year 2 curriculum expectations:

Pupils should be taught to:

- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left un-joined.
- write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Y2	Consolidate single letter formation and digraphs and trigraphs and through word writing. Consolidate capital letter formation. Consolidate number formation.	Introduce and practice diagonal joins without ascenders - e.g. ai, ar, un, am, ear, aw, ir, hu, ti, ki, du, up, ag, fe, fu.	Introduce and practice diagonal joins with ascenders - e.g. ab, ul, it, ib, if, ub, th, ck, ch, it, ft, fl.

Years 3 and 4 curriculum expectations:

Pupils should be taught to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left un-joined.
- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting (for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch).

Y3	Autumn	Spring	Summer
	As Year 2 plus: Introduce and practice horizontal joins to letters without ascenders - e.g. <i>ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ri, ru, ve, we, re.</i>	Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. <i>ou, vi, wi, op, ow, ov, ri, ru, ve, we, re.</i>	Continue to practice letter formation and joins. Writing words in joined handwriting. Practice joins for Y3 prefixes and suffixes.
Y4	Autumn	Spring	Summer
	As Year 3 plus: Writing high frequency words in joined handwriting. Spelling words in line with Year 4 spellings and prefixes and suffixes taught.		

Years 5 and 6 curriculum expectations:

Pupils should be taught to write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:

- choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.
- choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Y5 & 6	Autumn	Spring	Summer
	As Year 4 plus: Writing high frequency words in joined handwriting. Spelling words in line with Year 5/6 spellings and prefixes and suffixes taught.		