

Parents' Workshop on Handwriting

I have Bad handwriting because
My inner soul speaks,
My brain thinks faster
&
My pen writes quickly

– Nikita Srivastava



Aims of today...

- To recognise the importance of handwriting
 - To understand how handwriting is taught across our school
- To identify ways to support your child's handwriting at home

The New National Curriculum By the end of Year 1

Statutory requirements

Handwriting

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.

The New National Curriculum By the end of Year 2

Statutory requirements

Handwriting

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 unjoined
- 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.

What does good handwriting look like?

- Good handwriting is above all legible.
- The writer is able to write at speed if needed.
- To communicate a positive impression it is flowing, consistent and has a distinct character.

Early Years - Where it all begins

It is important for children to develop gross motor skills in order to master fine motor skills and handwriting.

In Reception (before arriving here) children will learn non-cursive letter formation.

How to develop fine motor skills

- Using play-dough
- Cutting and sticking
- Painting
- Threading beads
- Using hammers



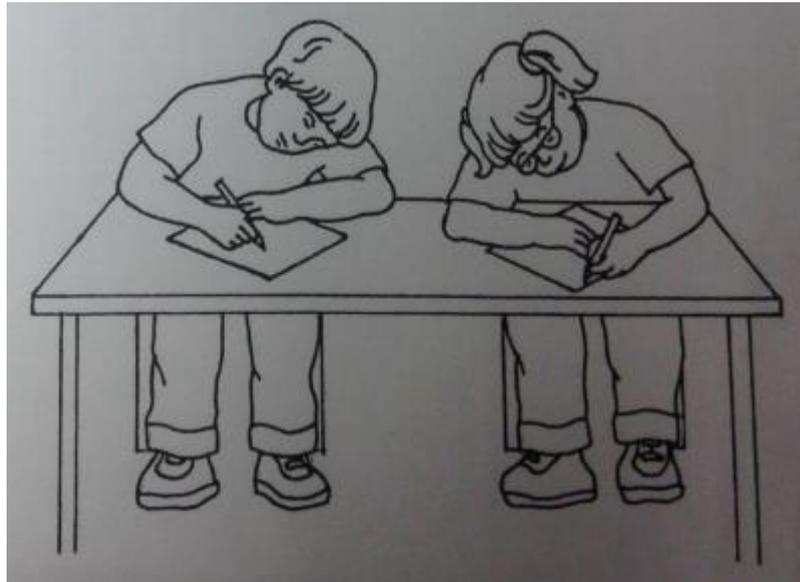
Remember the 3 P's

- Posture • Pencil • Paper



Posture/position

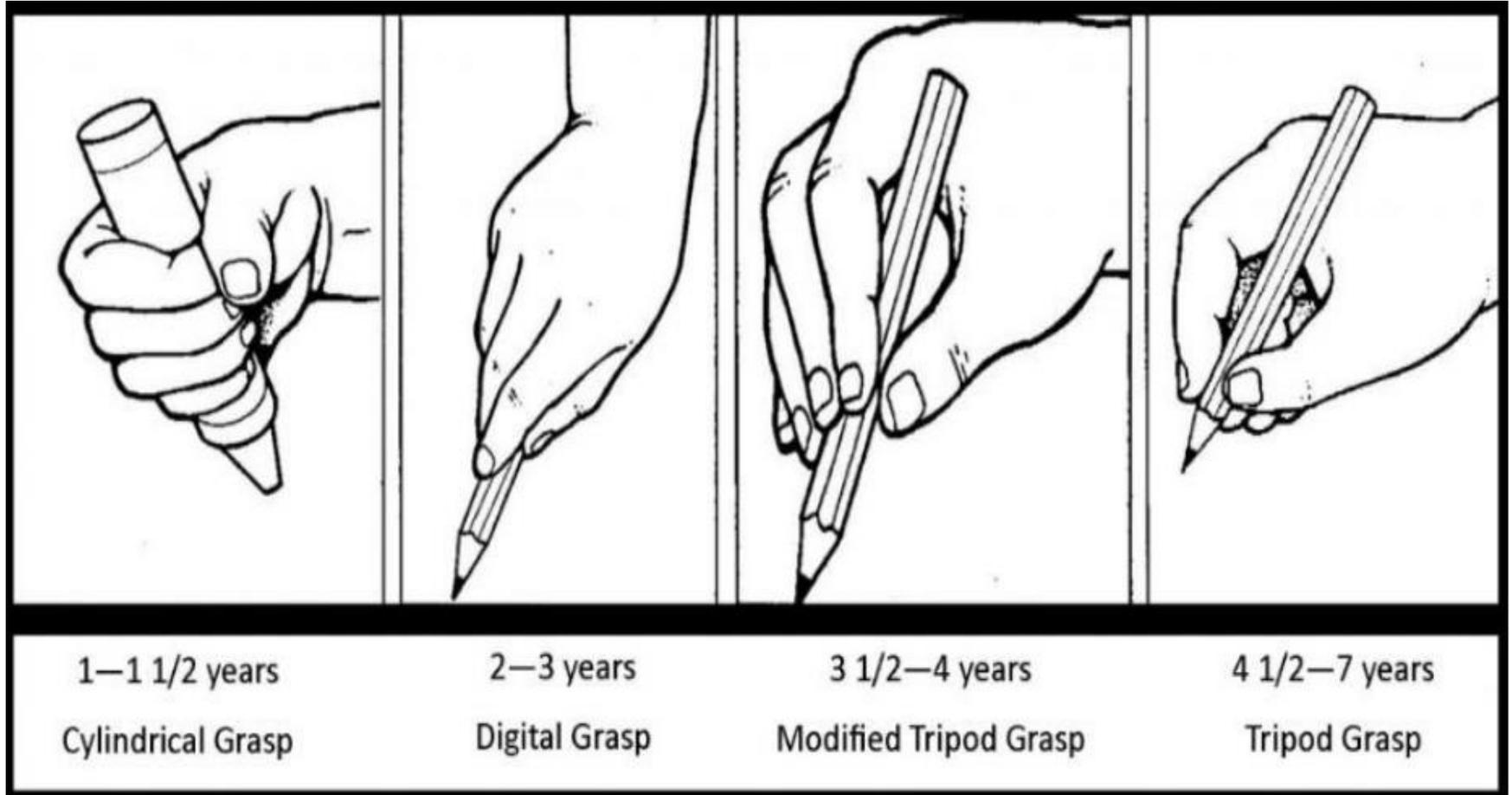
- Feet flat on the floor
- Head up – not resting on table or hand
- Right-handed children angle their paper to the right



Tips for left - handers

- Sit so the light comes over your right shoulder.
- Sit towards the right of your desk.
- Place the paper to your left side on the table.
- Left handers often hold their pen / pencil too tightly. Try relaxing exercises to combat this.
- Hold your pencil / pen a little further up the barrel so that you can see what you have just written
- If you are using a pencil grip this should be higher up the pencil.
- Find pens that don't smudge.

Pencil Grip Development

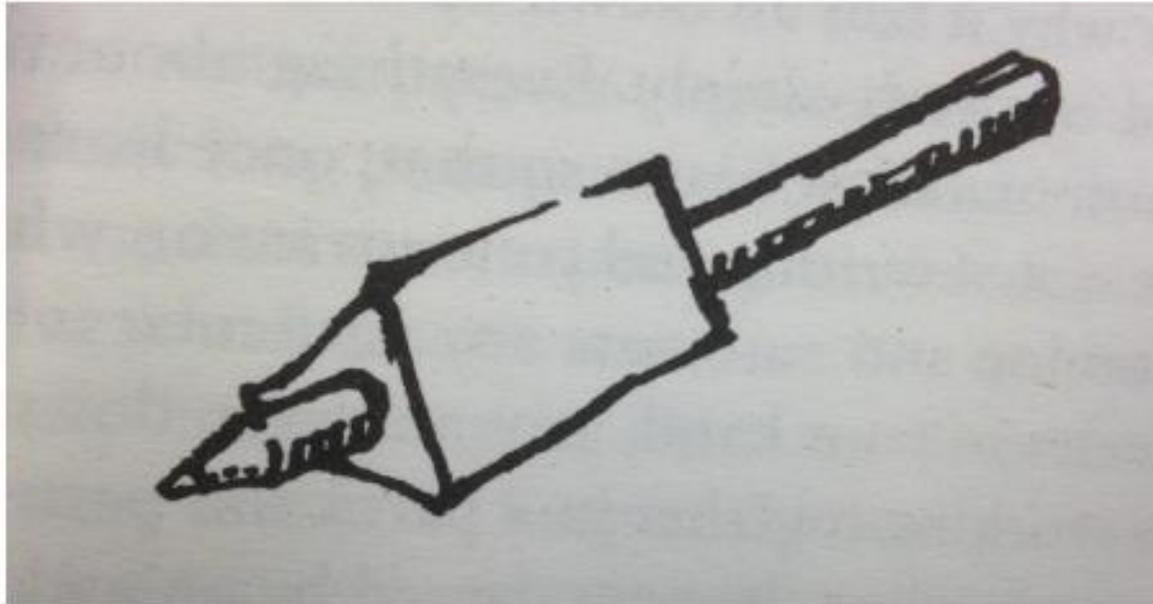


The tripod grip is the most traditional handwriting grip taught.

Tripod Grip

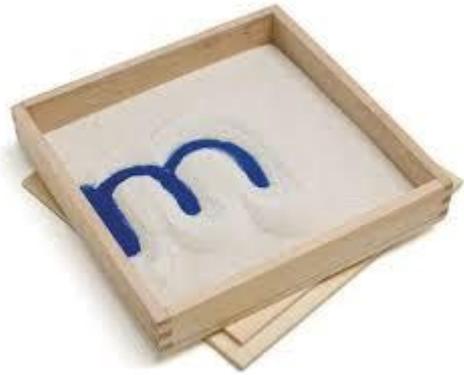


A pencil grip can help children to hold the pencil correctly.



Throughout the school:

- Handwriting is taught and practised in each year group on a daily/weekly basis.
- Children have lined handwriting books.
- Each teacher models handwriting in all lessons and on the board and displays



Letter formation



There are strong links with our Phonic programme and we teach a cursive script as shown.

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

Practise forming these letters in the sand/shaving foam!

- C curve letters

a c d g o q

- Down, up and over letters

b h m n p r

- Letters that descend below the line

g j q p y

- Tall letters

b d f h k l t

- X height letters

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

Letter families

Capitals and lower case

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



abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Handwriting joins

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz



Four taught handwriting joins

- First join to letters without ascenders

un um ig id ed eg an or ing ung

- Second join to letters with ascenders

ch th tl ll ill ck ack ink unk

- Third join- horizontal joins

od re ve oon oom

- Fourth join horizontal joins to letters with ascenders -

wl vl

How to help your child at home

- The best way to support your child is to practise! Watch them.
- Writing in salt or shaving foam!
- Motivate your child by providing him/her with a variety of tools such as felt-tips, chalk, paint as handwriting requires a lot of practice.



Any questions?

