

THE WRITING FRAMEWORK HANDWRITING IN RECEPTION



Statement

Explicit handwriting teaching from the beginning of reception
page 4

Audit: Writing in Reception

Explicit handwriting instruction, in addition to phonics, begins early in reception for all children.
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Handwriting Audit

Teachers begin teaching letter formation at the start of reception for all pupils.
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Misconception

Handwriting lessons appear in Reception from September onwards.

Children are taught how to write letters from September.

Schools focus on letter formation rather than the pre-cursors to handwriting (e.g. physical development).

Explanation

Further examples in the framework to demystify: Children – Sophie p20

- In Nursery - ...but her fine motor skills were less developed...
- In Reception and KS1... She had no explicit handwriting instruction, leading to poor pencil grip and writing posture...
- In KS2 she often had to concentrate on her handwriting and spelling rather than on constructing the sentence

Section 2

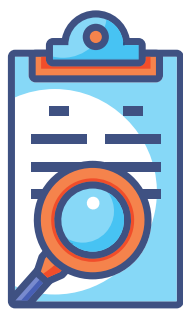
...the emphasis in reception should be on **building the foundations** for it: transcription and composition. This means **keeping things simple** and doing things well.

...some children may need teaching and practice in using and **manoeuvring their thumb, wrist and shoulder muscles in the way they need for handwriting**. Initially, handwriting lessons could include learning the movements needed to form letters, practising these movements at a range of sizes (for example, in the air or, for some children, with fingers on a surface that leaves a trace), learning how to hold and control a pencil and the correct position for writing.
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Section 3

...it is important that there is sufficient opportunity for **physical activity** and, particularly in reception, **intentional play**.
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Top Tips



In EYFS and KS1, review your setting and the provision. How are children supported in developing the shoulder pivot, elbow pivot and wrist pivot? All three areas must be strengthened and developed before children begin thinking about letter formation.

Use objective-led planning to support the physical skills for handwriting.

Plan the 'handwriting' objective such as 'To develop control and coordination in the upper arm by encouraging the use of the elbow joint during large arm movements.'

During continuous provision, play alongside the children to deliver the objective. This requires ensuring there are opportunities in all areas for children to engage in this objective. Some schools may wish to use starter activities based on the children's specific interests and motivations to engage the children.

Alistair Bryce-Clegg discusses this further in his book 'Best Practice in the Early Years' (2015).



Oracy Award



The Writing Framework Handwriting Statements
Our expert explores the Writing Framework handwriting statements and helps to address any misconceptions which may emerge.
By One Education, Aug 21



Handwriting



Writing Framework Blog

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