Supporting Handwriting

Parent's/Carer's Workshop

November 2019

Mrs Wiseman

Why Cursive?

•***The key advantages to this system 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;

•Because letters and words flow from left to right, children are **less likely to reverse letters** which are typically difficult (like b/d or p/q);

b d

b d

Why Cursive?

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

C c C c

- The continuous flow of writing **ultimately improves speed and spelling.**

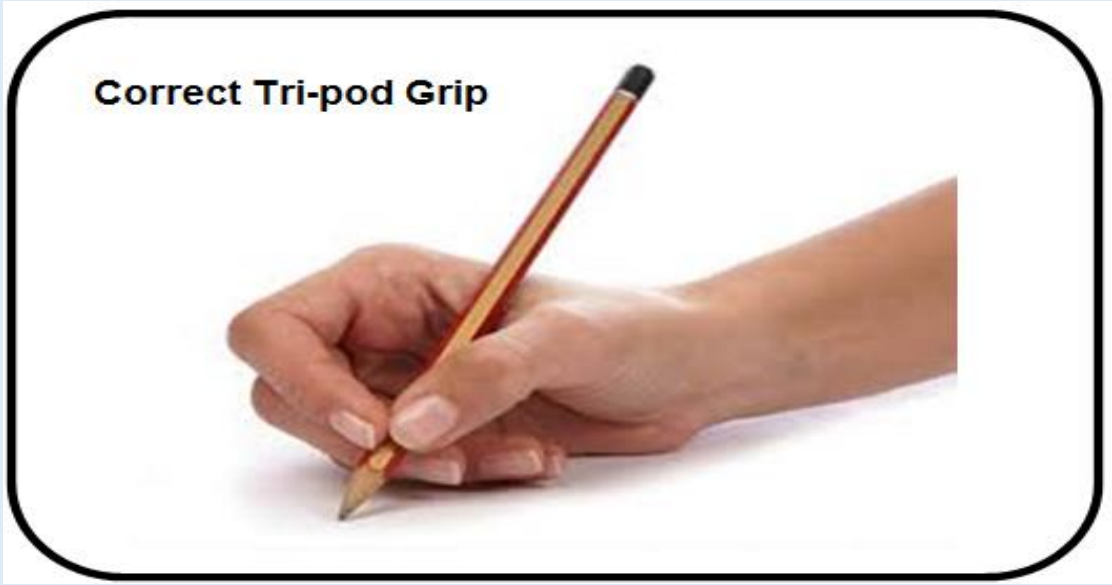
How to teach handwriting

Strengthen fine motor control leading into holding different writing drawing implements

Activities and technology to improve grasp patterns

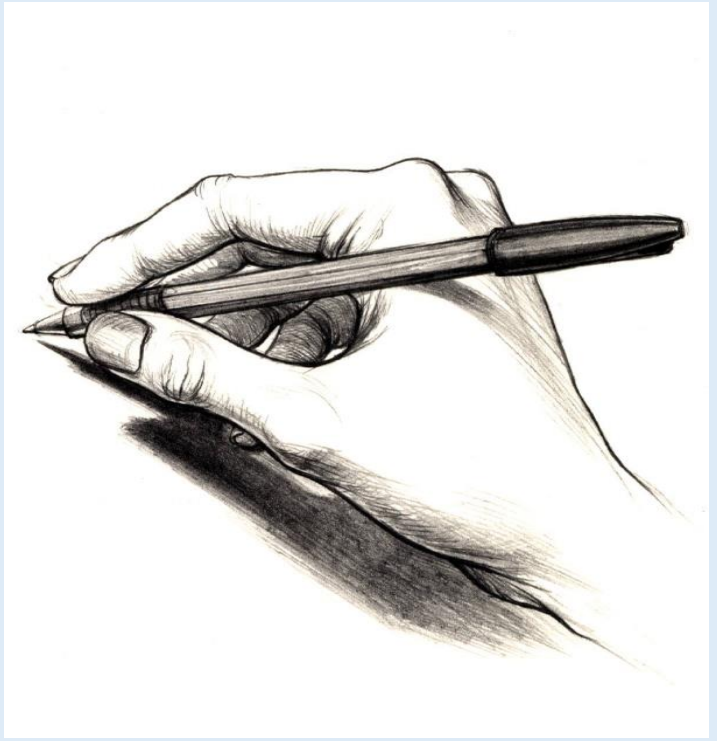
- Playing with playdoh/putty (hiding objects in putty or rolling into log and making shapes)
- Playing tug of war with small strings, lace, etc.
- Form circles with thumb and index finger and raise to eyes for glasses
- Eating food with utensils
- Regular participation in fine motor games and art activities that require manipulation of objects
- Try different types of writing utensils
- Try various pencil grips

Correct Grip



How to hold the pencil

- The pencil is pinched between the thumb pad and the index finger pad. The pencil rests on the middle finger. Can hold something in last 2 fingers.
- **A-OK: 1.** Make the A-OK sign 2. drop or tuck the other fingers 3. Place the pencil between the thumb and index finger pads
- **Pinch and flip: 1.** Place pencil on table pointing away from you. 2. Pinch pencil and pick it up. Pinch the pencil where you should hold it-on the point where the point meets the wood. 3. With other hand hold the eraser and flip it around to the top side of hand.

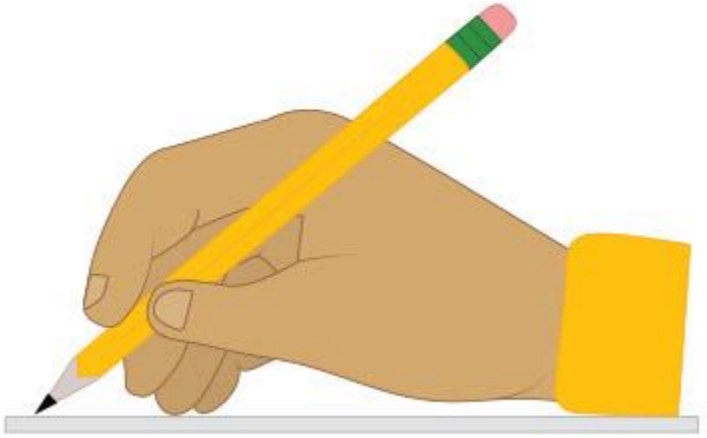


CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HANDWRITING POSITION

BODY POSTURE

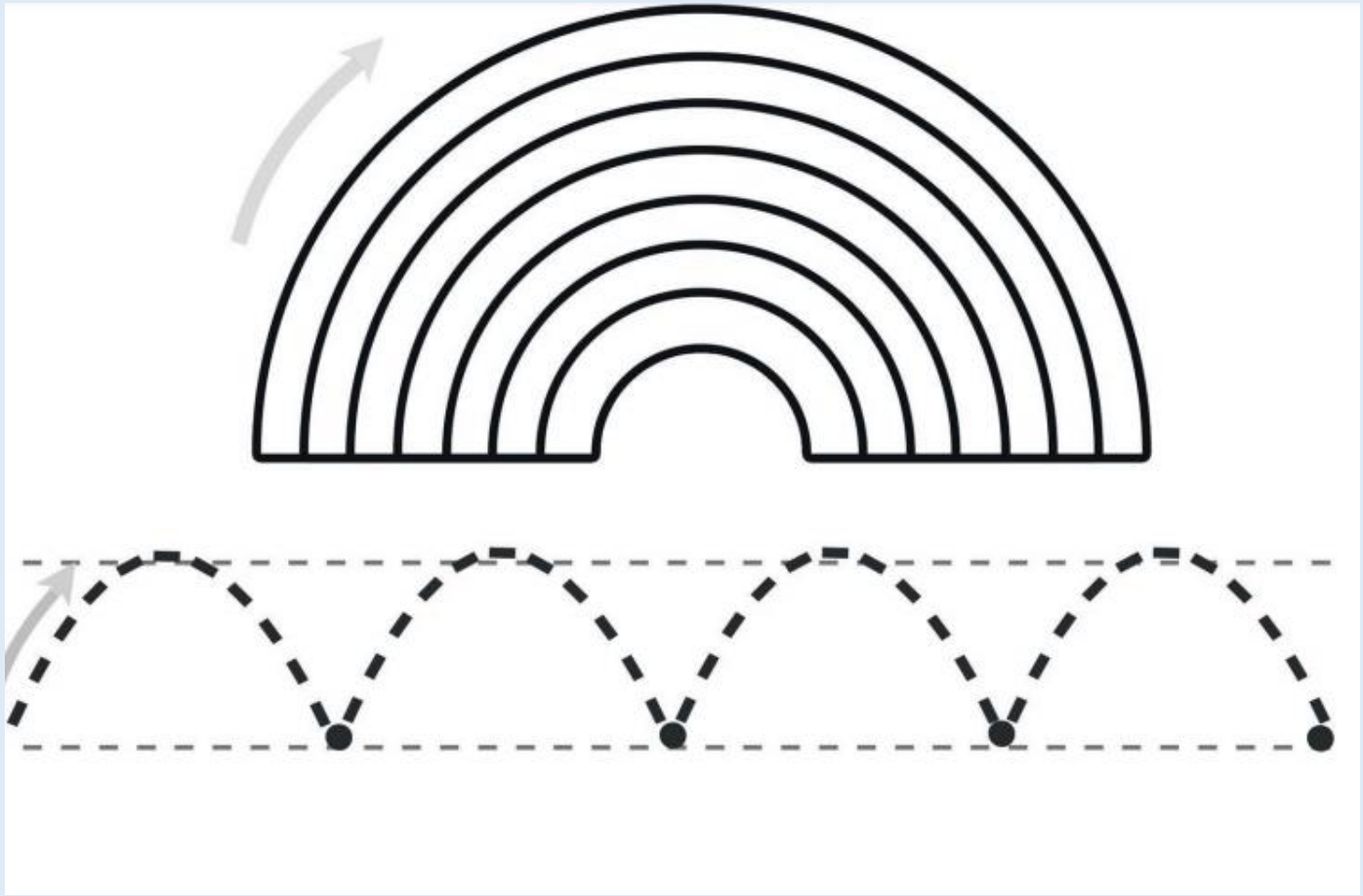
ARM POSITION

PENCIL GRIP



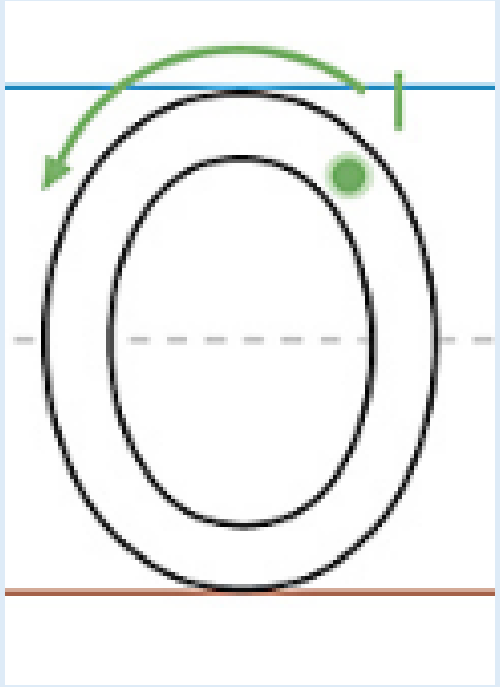
How to teach handwriting

Copy letter patterns



How to teach handwriting

Model how to form the letter.



How to teach handwriting

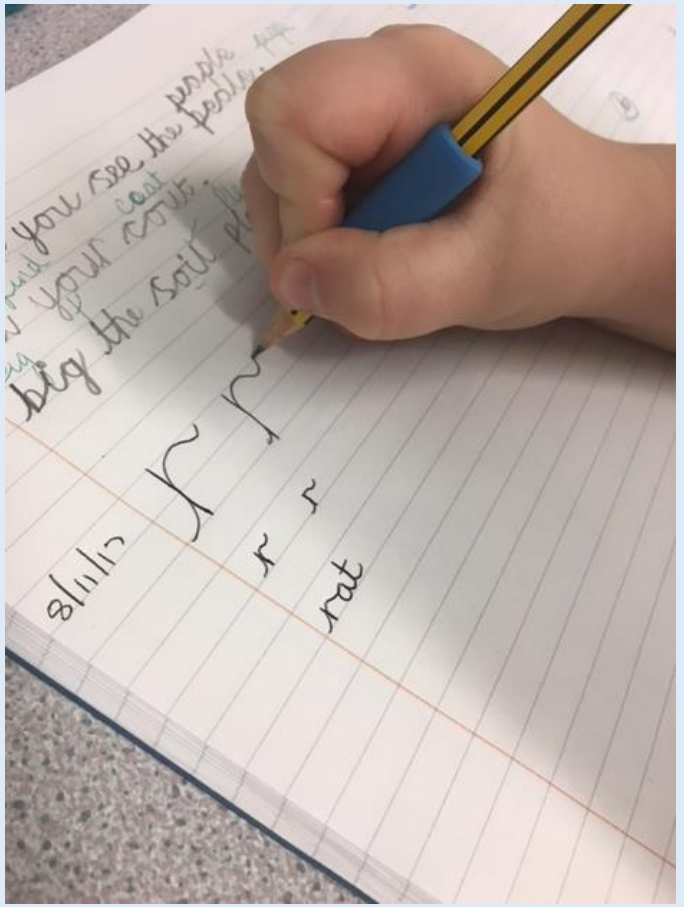
Practise in sand.

How to teach handwriting

Practise with a paintbrush and water (outside if it's warm enough).

How to teach handwriting

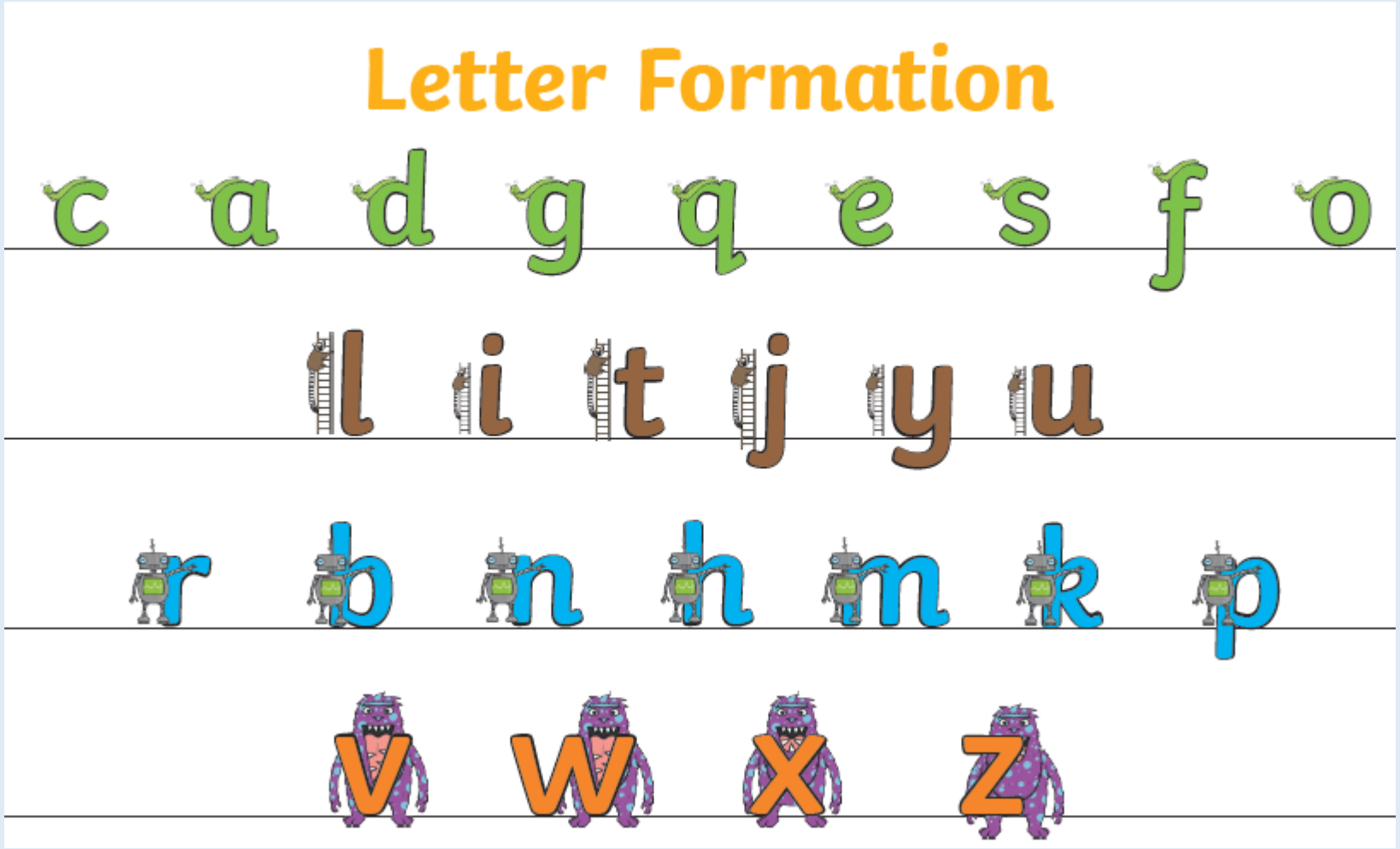
Practice on paper / in books.



How to teach handwriting

1. **Model** how to form the letter.
2. Practise in sand.
3. Practise on scrap card.
4. Practise with a paintbrush and water (outside if it's warm enough).
5. Practice on paper books.

Letter Families



The joins

- Joins between letters increase the speed, rhythm and ease of writing without reducing legibility. In nelson handwriting there are four types of joins and a ‘set’ of break letters after which joins are never made.

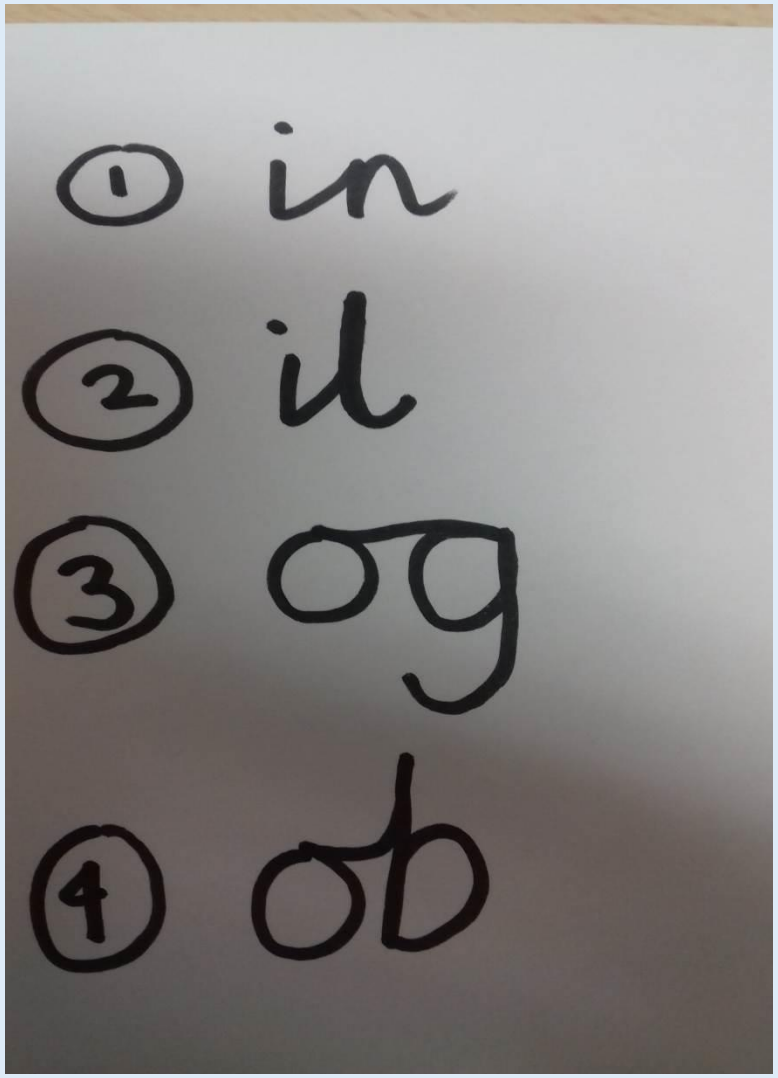
- Joining begins mid year one-as appropriate to your child.
- In the early stages the correct movements are more important than the appearance of the writing

Joining groups

- The joining groups divide the letters according to how they will join to other letters.
- They all have exit flicks
- We don’t usually join s to the letter after it, but in years 5 and 6, when children are developing their own handwriting style they sometimes choose to.

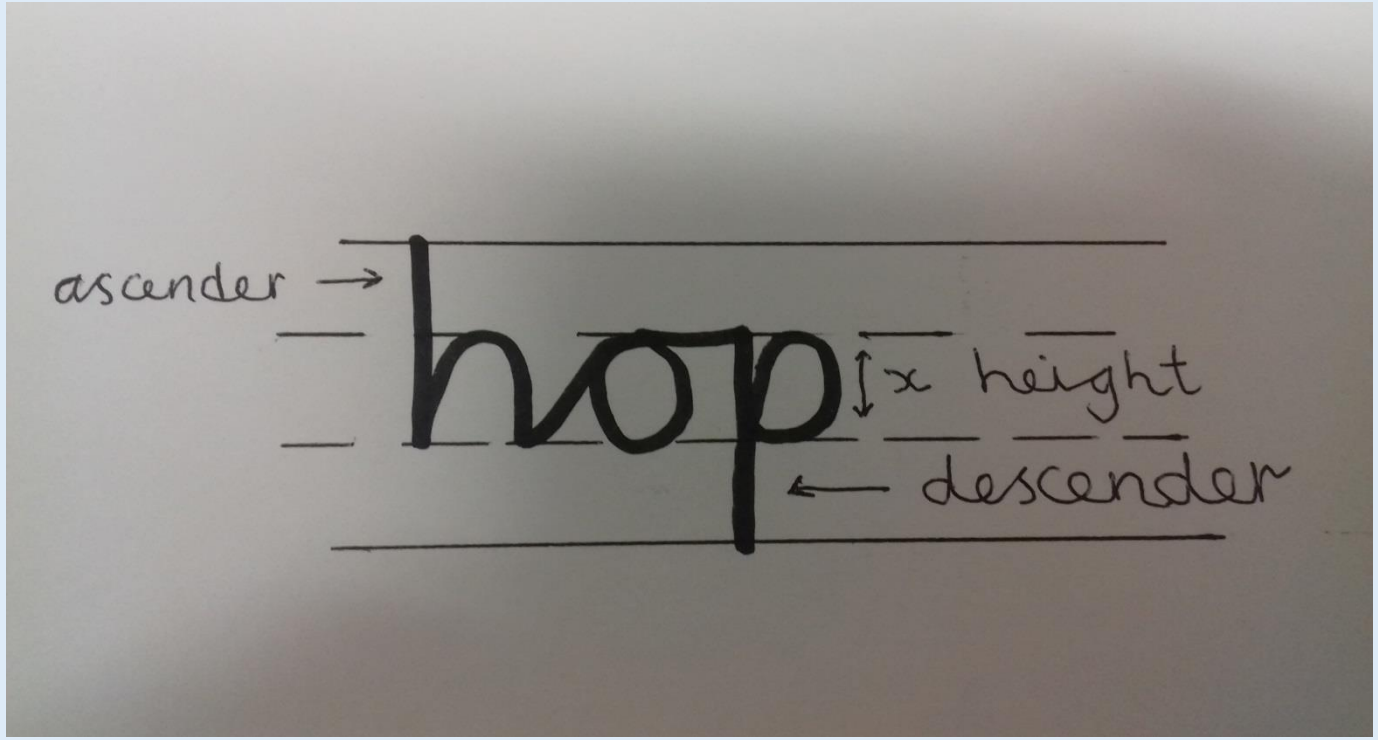
The joins:

1. The first join-is a diagonal join from one letter to another
2. The join from any member of joining group 1 to any member of group 3 is the same as the first join except that it meets the ascender half-way up the letter and then continues to the top of the ascender
3. The join from a group 4 letter to a group 2 letter is horizontal because they are the same height.
4. The fourth join is the join from the top of a small letter, it meets the ascender half-way up the letter and then continues to the top of the ascender



Letter size

- it’s really important that ascenders and descenders are clear



Joining groups

- There are nineteen letters which start at the top of the x height:

- a, c, d, e, g, j, m, o, p, q, r, s, ,u, v, w, x, y

Joining groups

- There are 6 letters which start at the top with ascenders:

- b, f, h, k, l, t

Joining groups

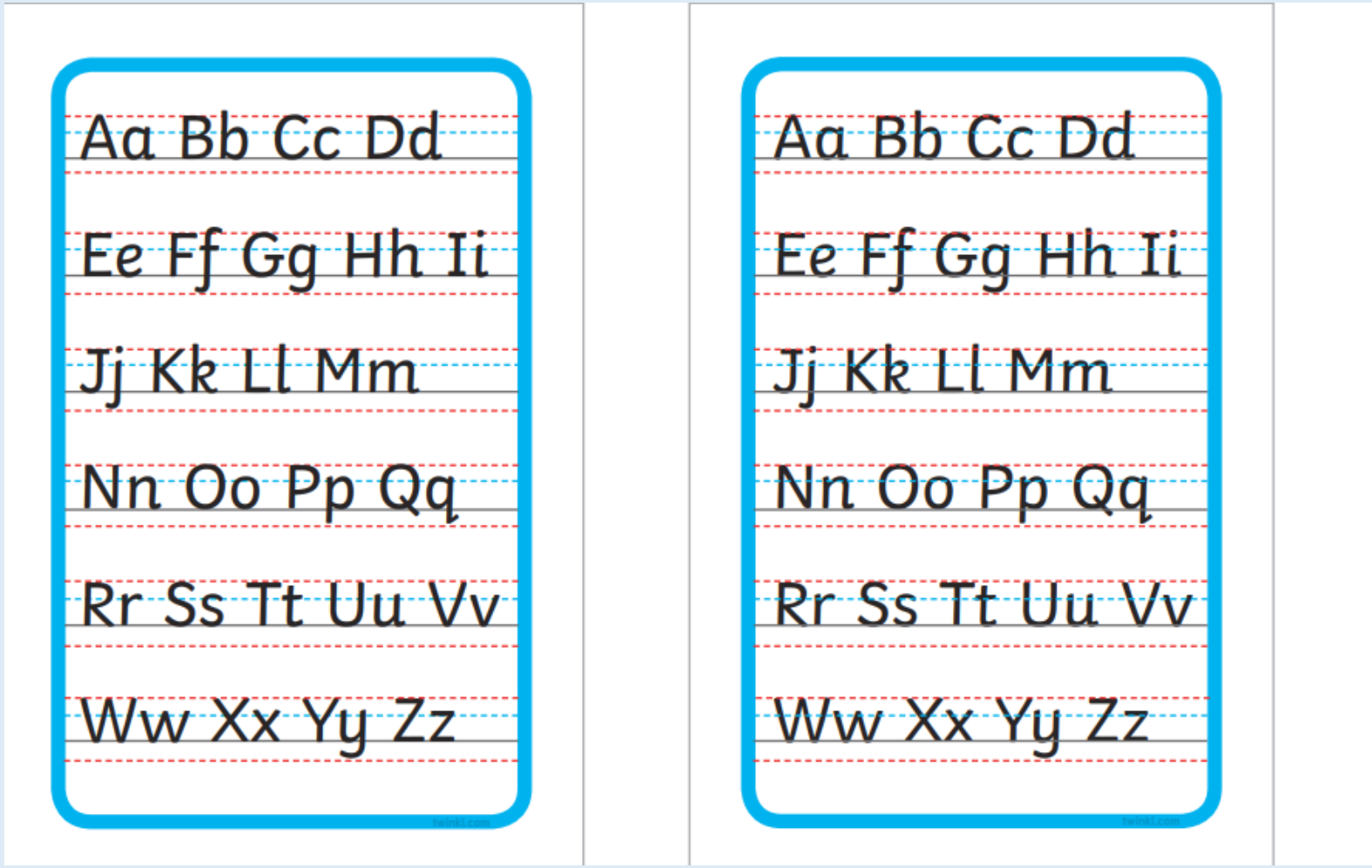
- There are five letters which finish at the top of the x height:

- **f, o ,r, v, w**

- And there eight break letters:

- b, g, j, p, q, x, y, z

Capital letters don’t join



Left handed Handwriting

- 10 percent of the general population is left handed.
- Possibly 1to 2 students per classroom
- Some people who write left handed do many activities right handed

Differences between left handed writers and right handed writers

- Right handers use the elbow as a pivot point to move pencil across the page
- Left handers move their entire forearm to move the pencil across the page

Problems with writing left handed

- Smearing ink
- Digging pencil into paper
- Covering writing and decreased visibility for spacing
- Increased fatigue
- Decreased stability for writing

Accommodating left handed children

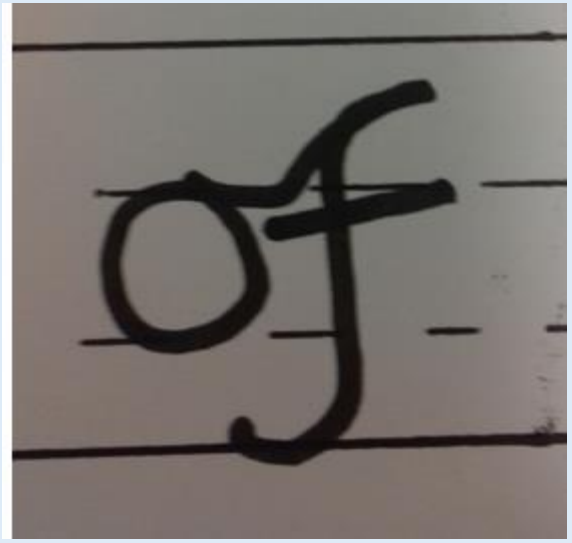
- Group left handed children together
- Teach correct body position (body to right of paper)
- Teach correct paper position/slant (30-45 degree slant to the right)
- Teach proper grip (tripod), 1 and ½ inches back from pencil tip
- Keep hand below line that is being written on
- It is OK for letters to slant slightly backwards

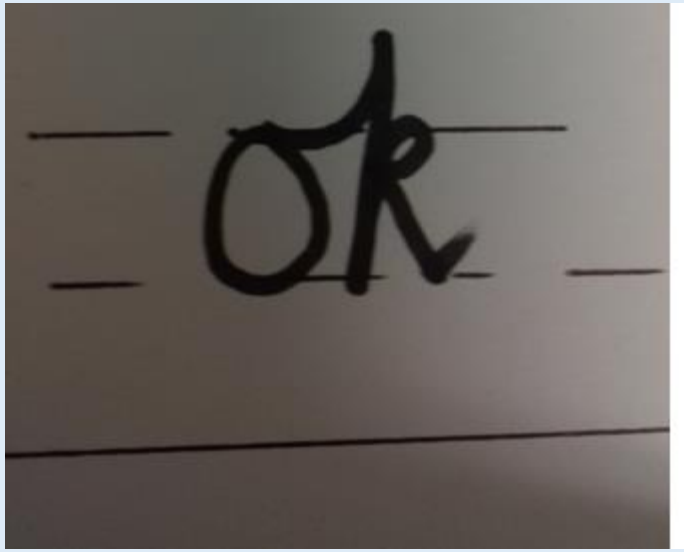
Tricky Bits

- Capital letters
- Joining from **o**
- Joining from **e**

Tricky Bits

- z
- x





Resources

- *Pencil grips – for comfort*

Resources

- *Pencil grips – for finger positioning*

Questions

- Is there anything specific you need help with?
- Are there any other resources that you would like?
- Do you have any other questions?