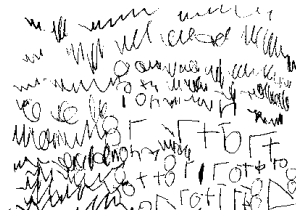


# Writing Guidance for Parents

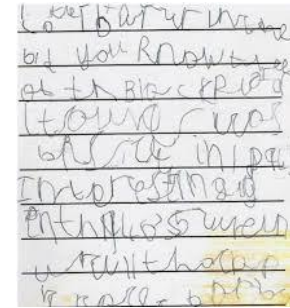


## From Mark Making to Writing



- ✎ The first marks your child make might look like scribble to you, but if he or she is mark-making this means that they understand marks convey meaning. This is an important first stage in their development as a writer. When your child is at this stage of development, ask them to tell you what the marks say.
- ✎ Bit by bit your child will begin to write shapes which look like letters. The first recognisable letters to appear are likely to be those which are in your child's name. At this developmental stage, their writing is likely to look more like 'real words' even though the sounds don't match.
- ✎ As your child progresses, you will be able to recognise the initial and sometimes other letters of some words, often they are capitals. Then, more correct letters will appear. Soon, your child will be able to spell some high frequency **red** (tricky) words by sight and use their phonic knowledge to sound out and spell **green** words.

- ✎ In time, your child's writing will become easier to read, although you may still need to ask them what some words or phrases say. See the examples below.



### BE A WRITING ROLE MODEL

Let your child watch you  
when you write.

### How can I help my child to write?

- Talk about what you are writing, who and/or what it is for.
- Show your child that writing goes from left to right.
- Show your child that it is acceptable to make mistakes and start again.

## Other ways to support your child:

- Help your child to develop the strength in their hands and wrists needed for control during writing by: playing with dough - rolling, squashing, cutting; opening and closing clothes pegs; and sand and water play.
- Make sure you have plenty of mark making and writing equipment available at home.
- Give help if it's asked for but don't make them copy your writing. It won't help them to learn any faster.
- Give lots of praise. Celebrate their writing; pin it on the wall; stick it on the fridge door, even if it only looks like scribble to you.

Remind your child to use a three finger tripod grip regardless of whether they are left or right handed. Remember your child may still be experimenting with whether they are left handed or right-handed.

**Provide lots of fun opportunities to mark make and 'do' writing.**

**A few role play ideas have been suggested below. We hope you enjoy them.**



**Post Office:** You will need: post cards or used cards, paper, used envelopes, used stamps, a pencil and a cereal box or empty tissue box to create a post box. Enjoy writing cards, letters and addressing letters to pop into the post box.



**Café:** You will need take-away menus or food magazines, a notepad, plastic cups and plates, plastic food (if you have some) and perhaps even an apron or bow tie for the waiter. Take turns placing and taking orders, writing them down carefully on the notepad. You could also help your child design their own menu for the café and a sign to advertise their new business!



**Hospital, Doctor's or a Vets Surgery**  
You will need: a notepad for the doctor/nurse or vet, a pencil, plasters, bandages, an old diary or calendar to use as an appointment book and some 'injured' dolls or stuffed animals. Help your child to make bookings and jot down notes about their patients or instructions for their patients.



*Shops: You will need: empty food packets, unopened tins, shopping bags, paper money or bottle tops, a notepad and pencil. Have fun making labels, signs, shopping lists and completing order forms.*



**After you child has started school.**

Practise cursive letter formation for just a few minutes a day. Sound/handwriting sheets will be sent home each week. The sheets clearly show how the letters should be formed.