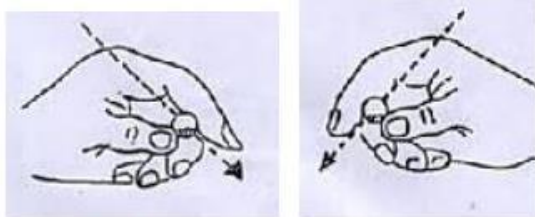


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH HANDWRITING



(figure 1 - dynamic tripod grasp for right and left handed)

PENCIL GRIP:TRIPOD

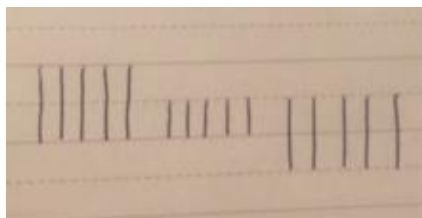
The most effective grip for writing is the tripod grip. The tripod grip uses the thumb, index (first) and middle fingers. It is the most functional grasp for gaining good pencil skills and is necessary for fastening buttons on clothes etc. The children rest their pencil in the pencil bed (the curved area between the thumb and your index finger)

OUR LINES

The children write on solid and broken lines.



They need to write their letters from the top down.
The children start by writing tall, small and tail lines



Handwriting vocabulary:

- BBC: bottom back in chair
- TNT: tummy near table
- 2 hands 6 feet
- small, tall and tail letters
- families
- joining lines
- top to bottom

YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO:

sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly

TNT: sit with their chair tucked under and their tummy near the table. **BBC:** place their bottom in the back of their chair. **2 hands 6 feet:** their feet and the chairs feet on the floor, holding their paper/book with one hand and their pencil in the other.

begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place

understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these

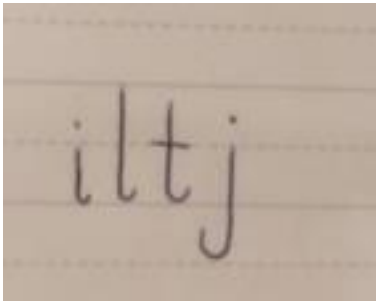
The straight line family

We have been learning how to correctly form the letters in the straight line family.

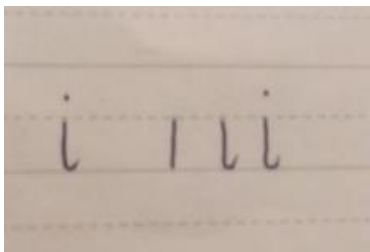
The letters in the straight line family are: iltj

What the letters should look like

We show the children what it should look like and break the letter into parts.

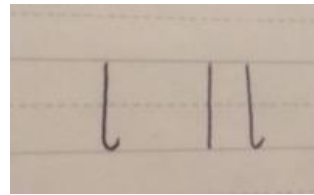


How to form i



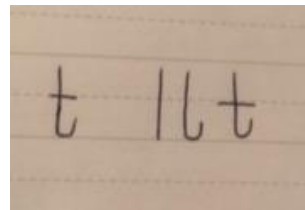
i is a small letter. Begin with the straight line down. Ensure the line is straight, then write the straight line down with the joining line.

How to form l



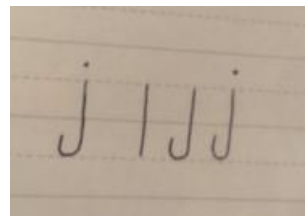
l is a tall letter. Begin with the straight line down, starting at the solid line going down to the solid line. Then write including the joining line.

How to form t



t begins just below the solid line. Start at the top and write a straight line down. Write the straight line down and add the joining line and then cross on the broken line.

How to form j



j is a tall letter. It begins at the top on the broken line. Write a straight line down to begin. Then write a straight line down and round to the left. Take the pencil off and add a small dot above the j.