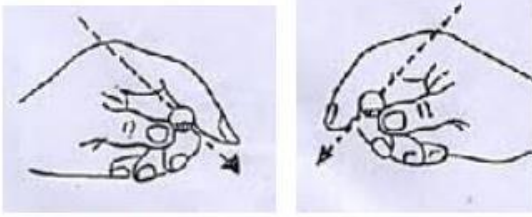


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH HANDWRITING



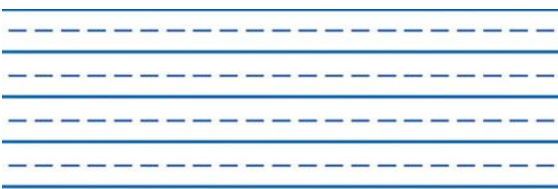
(figure 1 - dynamic tripod grasp for right and left handed)

PENCIL GRIP:TRIPOD

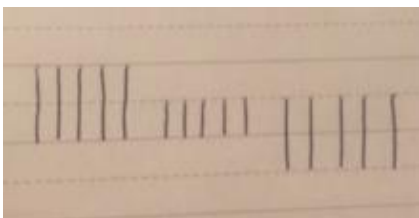
The most effective grip for writing is the tripod grip. The tripod grip uses the thumb, index (first) and middle fingers. It is the most functional grasp for gaining good pencil skills and is necessary for fastening buttons on clothes etc. The children rest their pencil in the pencil bed (the curved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

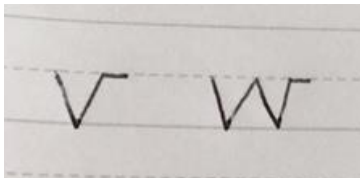
The Zig Zag family

We have been learning how to correctly form the letters in the Zig Zag family.

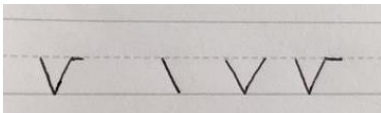
The letters in the Zig Zag family are: v and w

What the letters should look like

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

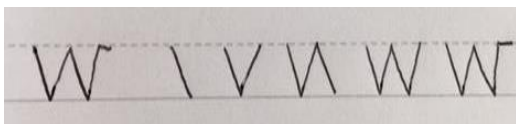


How to form v



v is a small letter. Start on the broken line and have a diagonal downwards stroke. Ensure the line is a straight line. It has a joining line that sits on the broken line.

How to form w



w is a small letter. Start on the broken line and have a diagonal downwards stroke. Continue with diagonal strokes, then including the joining line on the broken line.

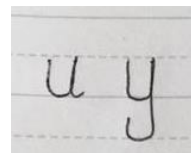
The Smile family

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

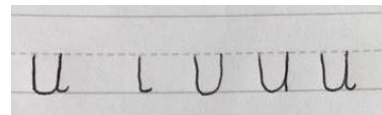
The letters in the Smile family are: u and y

What the letters should look like

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

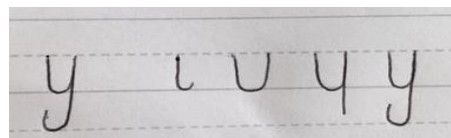


How to form u



u begins on the broken line with a downward stroke. Curve back up to the broken line then down to the bottom solid line. Remember the joining line.

How to form y



y is a tail letter that extends down to the bottom broken line. It begins at the broken line with a downward stroke. It should then curve back up to the broken line then a straight line down. It ends with a gentle curve that should curve up to be in line with the initial downward stroke line.