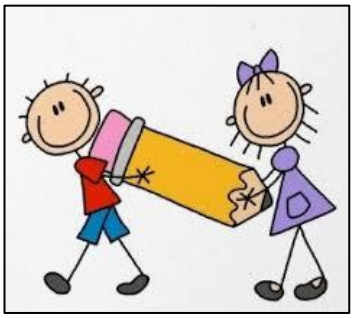


Handwriting

A Parent's Guide

This leaflet explains why and how we teach handwriting at Hamstel Infant School and Nursery. It also explains how you can support your child to develop their handwriting at home.

At Hamstel Infant School we follow the PenPals scheme of work. We support children's readiness for writing in the Early Years through targeted fine and gross motor activities. Handwriting teaching begins in reception with learning correct letter formation by teaching the letters in their families. When the children are secure in forming letters correctly they will learn the different ways to join their letters in order to develop a fluent, legible and fast handwriting style.

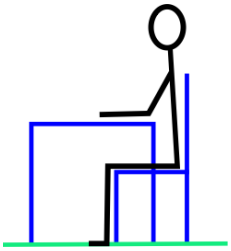
It is important that children hold their pencil correctly and ensure their posture is correct.

Pencil Grip



- Pencil held between finger and thumb
- Middle finger used for support

Posture



- Feet flat on the floor
- Bottom at the back of the chair
- Arms resting on the table, spare hand steadies the paper

How to support at home:

Gross Motor Activities:

- going to the park,
- climbing,
- swimming,
- ball games.

Fine Motor Activities:

- using tweezers,
- Lego,
- threading,
- play dough

Form letters in a fun way – in sand, water, on your back, on the floor, in flour.
Have a selection of writing materials at home - Pencils, felt-tip pens and paper.
Table and chair - encourage your child to write at a table.
Drawing patterns is a great way to start – lines, circles, zig-zags.
Drawing - encourage your child to draw anything!
Letter Families - practise the letters in their letter families (see Letter formation families sheet). Remember to start and finish in the right place.
Be positive and praise your child for their efforts. Be mindful to correct some errors as these can easily become learnt habits.