



Reception Guidance for writing - some do's and don'ts

when supporting your child's writing at home.

- **DO focus on letter formation.** See our handwriting rhymes and picture cards to help you. It's really important that children get into the habit of writing letters correctly – this is not about how the finished letter looks, it's all about how they write it – what direction they move the pencil or pen. Bad habits are almost impossible to break – if they form letters wrongly, the finished letter may look good BUT in the long run, they are much less likely to be able to write fluently.
- **DON'T write a word or a line for them to copy.** If they can't remember how to write a letter, demonstrate, forming it correctly, so that they can imitate you.
- **DO encourage them to spell using sounds** that they can hear. Starting with the first sound and any others they can hear in a word.
- **DO give loads of praise.** Writing is so hard, and children get discouraged easily. It may be that they have just written one or two words, but if you praise them, it may be four words next time!
- **DON'T do 'dotty' letters for them to trace.** It is much better for children to form their own letters. We are teaching them to write not trace. Even if it's on the large side it's the direction – an anticlockwise circle for example, that's important, not the finished letter.
- **DO write for them sometimes.** It is important that young children can express their ideas in written form, and sometimes it is really good to write down what they say so that their ideas are expressed in writing on the page. Sometimes you can take turns to scribe. You write a bit, then they write a bit. It is a lovely way of demonstrating their creative ideas.

Please view the following link for a short video on 'Writing at home with a young child': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFp_k_0qKvk

You will find parent videos on Google Classroom that demonstrate how you can use our Read Write Inc. Rhymes to support your child's letter formation.