



## Handwriting at Cilffriw - Useful Tips for Parents

### Handwriting in the Early Years

In Early Years it is important to firstly develop the child's physical skills. Learning to write should always start with large scale movements from the shoulder. These movements will then be refined into medium scale movements, such as sky-writing by using the hand and forearm and eventually encouraging mark making with a chubby crayon or pencil on a large piece of paper.

**It is very important to ensure that the child is not asked to write small letters and in small spaces until they are physically ready.**

To help your child become a successful writer at a young age, first you can help to...

- encourage large scale movements such as moving to music, balancing, climbing, marching and general outdoor play
- develop their fine manipulative skills through threading, and safe child scissors
- develop fine motor control and hand eye co-ordination toys - cars, trains, animals, jigsaws and small people

There are four key movements that underpin all the letters that your child will need to write, they are;

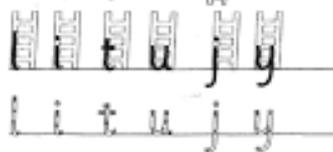
c - curly caterpillar

l - long ladder

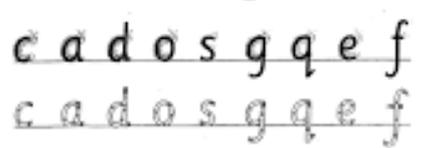
r - robot arm

z - zig-zag monster letters

The family of long ladder letters



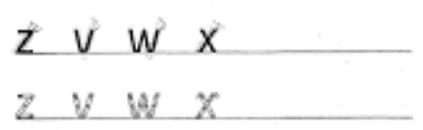
The family of curly caterpillar letters



The family of one-armed robot letters



The family of zig-zag monster letters



Once your child has had lots of practice of this encourage them to...

- make these shapes on a large scale, by making the shapes with their arms outstretched in the air.
- practise mark making in sand, using sticks in the mud or water painting on a patio.

When your child is ready they will move on to writing on a smaller scale...

- use chubby pens, pencils and crayons on large sheets of paper, wallpaper, newspaper.

Once your child is ready to move onto learning letter formation, this will be taught in the same way; large scale formation, followed by medium scale formation and finally small scale pen on paper movements.

When your child begins to form letters, it is very important that letter formation is modelled correctly. Incorrect teaching of letters can often be very difficult for the child to unlearn. Please do not encourage your child to write using capital letters. A capital letter should initially only be used at the beginning of their name.

**It is important to remember not to rush a young child into writing letters formally too early. Give them lots of opportunities to develop their large scale movements and when they are interested and ready then encourage small scale writing.**

Here are the letters with the correct formation:-



### Letter Formation



a b c d e f g h i j k l m

Around, up, down, around. Down, up, around. Around, up, around. Around, down, around. Lift and cross. Around, up, around. Down, down, around, dot. Right up, around, lift and dot. Down, up, around, down, around. Down, up, around, down, around.

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Down, up, around, and then join. Right around, up, around. Right down, up, around. Around, up, right, down, up. Down, up, around, lift and cross. Down, up, around, down, around. Down, up. Down, up, down, up. Down, lift and down. Down, around, up, right down and around. Across, down and across.



### Letter Formation



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

Down, lift, down, lift, across. Down, lift, around. Around. Down, lift, across, lift, across. Down, lift, across, lift, across. Around, up, lift, across. Down, lift, down, lift, across. Down, lift, around, lift, across. Down, lift, down, lift, across. Down, across.

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Down, lift, down, up. Around, lift, down. Down, lift, down, down. Around, lift, across. Down, lift, across. Around, lift, across. Down, lift, across. Down, up. Down, up, down, up. Down, lift, down, down. Across, down, across.

Remember - start on the dot and follow the arrow

\* Remember - start on the dot and follow the arrow

## Handwriting in Year 1 and 2

Our aim is for pupils to hold the pencil between finger and thumb and middle finger provides extra support.

### Posture

- Feet flat on the floor
- Head up, not resting on the desk or hand
- Paper at the correct angle
- Spare hand steadies the paper

Pupils should keep their pencil on the paper when they are writing the letter so each letter is a fluid action with exception of the letters i, j, t and f .

Please encourage your child to write as much as possible at home. Do remind your child, gently, where to start each letter. We NEVER start at the bottom. Each letter has a starting point depending which group they belong to:-

**The caterpillar letters all start at 2 o'clock**

c o a d q g

**The ladder letters all start at the top**

l i j u t y

**Robot arm letters all start at the top then stick out their robot arm**

r n m h b k p

**Zig zag letters also start at the top and are very pointy**

z x v w

**The odd ones out**

s e f

Capital letters should always **start at the top** and should also be a fluid action. Pupils will practise their handwriting on a weekly basis using the handwriting books with the designated lines. Pupils struggling with letter formation will be supported by our intervention programme.

Pupils will have lots of opportunities to practise their handwriting during focused tasks and in the continuous provision areas around the classroom. When pupils are ready in Year 2 they will begin to use a pen.

Here are some tips you can do at home to help your child:-

- Have a small selection of handwriting materials readily available at home, soft pencils and some sheets of A4 typing paper are enough for a start.
- Let handwriting play a part in your family's daily life, for example: making lists and labels, keeping a family diary, leaving notes for each other in busy households, keeping in touch with distant friends and relatives, designing and making home-made notepads and greetings cards.

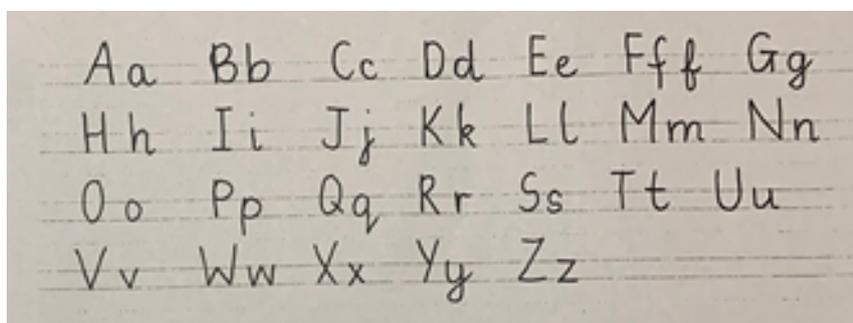


Do give your child lots of praise!!

### Handwriting in Key stage 2

Pupils will learn cursive style in Year 3 when they are ready. Children continue to have direct teaching and regular practice of handwriting. We aim for them to develop a clear, fluent style by the end of Year 6. They should be able to adapt their handwriting for different purposes to include a neat, legible handwriting style for finished, presented work; a faster script for note making; and the ability to print for labelling diagrams.

Here are the lower case and capitals:-



If you have any worries or concerns please feel free to come in and discuss them with your child's class teacher.