

## Daily handwriting practice

Children practise correct letter formation as part of their daily Speed Sounds Lesson. We use the mnemonics to help children visualise the letter before they write it down. In the 'Write the letters' activity in the lesson, children practise saying the handwriting phrase and the sound as they form the letter in the air and then write the sound on paper.

Children need to practise handwriting under the guidance of a teacher so they do not develop habits that will be difficult to undo later.

Please don't ask children to copy letters or words. We need their attention to be focused on their own formation of letters.

### Teaching correct handwriting grip and writing position – right/write sitting

Teach writing at tables so you can set the habits for correct pencil grip and sitting position from the beginning.

Make sure the table and chairs are the right height and that left-handed children are sitting to the left of a right-handed child.

The children should be facing you when you model the writing – not at an angle.

Teach children that when you use the handwriting signal (shown in the photograph, right) they need to get into the correct writing position at a table:

- feet flat on the floor
- bottom at the back of the chair
- body one fist from the table
- shoulders down
- non-writing hand holding the page
- writing hand ready in a tripod grip.



Do not start writing until the children are ready in the correct position. Soon you should be able to say 'right (write) sitting' and they will know exactly what to do.

Share the handwriting phrases with parents so they can support their child with correct letter formation at home ([see p.20](#)). These are also in the *My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book*.

