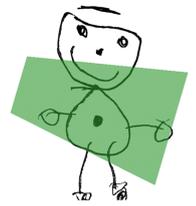


A parent's guide to... Learning to write



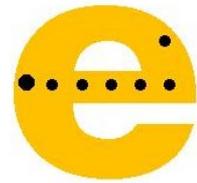
Some of your children will be attempting to write letters and numbers, especially the ones due to start school in September. If this is the case often the first word children learn to write is their name.

It is important to remember that children show an interest in mark making at different stages, so please do not worry if your child has not yet shown an interest. If you are not sure whether it is the right time for your child to start learning how to write their name please talk to their Key Person.

Here are some key points for you to remember:

- ✓ Your child may be happy to scribble, draw and make marks, often this will be on a large scale
- ✓ Before a child can write they need to develop their gross and fine motor skills for them to be able to hold a pencil, so let them play with toys and resources that help develop their arm, hand and finger muscles (more on this in the next newsletter)
- ✓ Always encourage and praise your child for any mark making they complete, this will give them the confidence to continue
- ✓ Let your child write and draw with a variety of pencils, crayons, pens etc.
- ✓ As your child experiments with making marks encourage your child to say what their 'writing' means — often they will be able to tell you!
- ✓ Try to let your child see you writing and drawing, they will want to copy you!

When helping your child use large letters first, as below, add the dot so they know where to start, further dots for them to follow and use a light colour for them to trace over



At Caverstede we use the following letter formation for lower case letters

Please remember the following when supporting your child:

- ✓ Always use lower case letters (as in the table to the right) other than a CAPITAL letter for the first letter of your child's name
- ✓ Always start the letter where the dot is on the letter (as in the table to the right)
- ✓ Other than letters f k t x try not to take your pencil off the paper from start to finish
- ✓ We always start at the dot and then go anti clockwise on the following letters c o a d g q

