

HANDWRITING/ FINE MOTOR SKILLS

To develop good handwriting, you need to:

1. Have good whole-body strength and dexterity (Gross & Fine Motor Skills).
2. Understand direction, movement and position (Spatial Awareness & Motor Memory).
3. Remember and recall how to form the different shapes of the letters (Visual & Motor Memory).
4. Sit correctly
5. Hold a pencil appropriately
6. Control the pencil
7. Tilt and move the paper on the desk (Gross Motor Skills & Spatial Awareness).
8. Refine letter formation and position (Fine Motor Skills, Visual & Motor Memory, Spatial Awareness & Eye Tracking).
9. Join the letters to form words (Fine Motor Skills, Visual & Motor Memory, Spatial Awareness & Eye Tracking).

Below are some areas to observe/ consider. If the student has difficulty, there are supporting handouts offering ideas/ activities to support (see coloured squares).

Observations	No difficulty	Some difficulty	Lots of difficulty	Comments	1	2	3	4
Able to sit well in a chair.					1	2	3	4
Able to sit well on the floor unsupported.					1	4	2	
Can stand still in a line when lining up.					4	3	5	
Can follow verbal instructions.					6			
Able to find class possessions independently.					2			
Able to trace over simple lines/ shapes.					7	8	11	
Can form all directional line drawings (see handout)					8	7	6	
Can form pre-writing shapes (see handout)					8	7	11	
Able to write own name.					8	7		
Able to cut out simple shapes,					10	11	13	7
Uses dominant hand consistently.					12			
Can hold a pencil/ pen in a tripod grip effectively.					8	11		
Can pick up small objects from a flat surface using a pincer grip.					8			

Can complete simple jigsaw puzzles.					7	8	13	
Can complete thumb/ finger sequence.					8	11		
Can form upper and lower case letters independently.					9	8	7	
Can join letters in a cursive fashion when writing.					9	7	8	
Can write independently with letters neatly spaced on the line.					7	8	9	
Can use a glue stick/ spreader.					13	12		
Can produce the same amount of handwriting as peers.					11	1	13	
Can distinguish between b/d, n/m and p/q					7			
Able to start writing next to the margin.					7	8		
Clear ascending strokes-b,d,t,k					7	8		
Clear descending strokes g,j,p,q					7	8		
Can write applying the correct amount of pressure.					14			
Can use a ruler.					15			
Can fold paper to make a simple shape.					13	11		
Writing shows no reversals.					7			
Able to recognise letters and numbers in rotation.					7			
Shows good understanding of prepositional language and directions.					6			

1	Core and shoulder strength
2	Environment -seating/ visuals/ equipment/organised classroom
3	Sensory profile
4	Balance
5	Other needs?
6	Speech and Language needs
7	Visual perceptual skills
8	Pencil grip
9	Letter formation -early handwriting
10	Scissor skills
11	Hand strength
12	Dominant hand
13	Two handed activities
14	Pressure difficulties
15	Ruler Pack

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYvQ3ULh0WWJAYVzcV7xZoQ/playlists>

