



Queen Elizabeth School

Write with Me

Tips for helping your child learn to write.





Stage 1

At stage 1 your child will be reaching out for toys with two hands, beginning to pick up and hold things, sitting up, rolling and crawling and beginning to move their fingers purposefully.

- Hold toys within your child's reach so that they can touch and feel as well as see them. Children like toys that move and make noises.
- Sit with your child on your knee or next to you when you're writing so they can watch you.
- Let your child move around on different surfaces, like grass, carpet, mud, gravel as well as smooth floors.
- Dip your hands in a bowl of warm water and let the drips fall back into the water or on to some coloured paper – let your child join in.
- Use the bubbles in the bath to make patterns.
- Put finger paint or soft food on a tray on a table and let them make marks and patterns in it.
- Sing and say action rhymes, encouraging your child to join in with the actions, such as Round and round the garden.
- Read stories and look at books, point at things in the pictures and the words you're reading.



Stage 2

At stage 2 your child will start to hold thick crayons, chunky chinks and other things to make marks, to start to move and walk on their own and begin to pick up small objects between their finger and thumb.

- Encourage your child to feed themselves with a spoon and fork to practise their hand eye coordination, scooping and stabbing.
- Thread large beads or pasta tubes onto strings.
- Put on music and get your child to dance, swirling a long piece of ribbon or a scarf.
- Take a bucket of water and large brushes and rollers outside so your child can paint on the wall, the ground, everywhere.
- Make sure you have lots of paper for drawing (the back of unused wallpaper is good for big pictures) as children at this stage will make marks anywhere!
- Show your child how to squeeze and squash by having lots of water and sponges, spray bottles, and squeeze toys that squirt and spray in the bath or outdoors.
- Play with play dough, rolling, squeezing, poking, cutting out shapes and snipping with scissors.
- Read stories with flaps for your child to open or buttons to press.



Stage 3

At stage 3, your child will be starting to hold a pencil or crayon the right way with a tripod grip, be able to control their left or right hand better – starting to become left or right handed, to handle small objects and to run, jump, climb and swing along a bar

- Give your child lots of two handed activities, like stirring and whisking, so that they can choose which will be their dominant hand for writing.
- Put lots of different sized containers in the bath for your child to fill and pour.
- Give your child different things to cut and snip. They may find this difficult at first but you can help by holding the paper for them.
- Play simple card games like pairs and lotto where your child needs to pick up and turn over the cards.
- Help your child use tweezers or tongs to pick up and move small objects from place to place, such as putting a raisin in each section of an ice cube tray.
- Give your child empty plastic bottles for them to screw and unscrew the lids.
- Put hair gel, bath cream, corn flour and water or paint in a sealed, plastic bag and let your child make marks in it with their finger.

Stage 4

At stage 4 your child will Start to know that writing means something and say what their marks mean, recognise their name and some familiar words and signs., be able to write some letters in their name and other familiar words, like dad. Your child will dress and undress themselves and begin to fasten and unfasten zips and buttons and to concentrate and sit still for longer.

- Play throwing and catching games together.
- Let your child help you around the house, pegging out clothes (the family's or their toy's), using a dustpan and brush, washing up, wiping the table and squeezing out the sponge as they clean the windows.
- Cook together - let your child peel and chop, mash up food, put cake mixture into cases or spread butter on bread.
- Have lots of different materials to cut and stick so your child can make pictures, patterns and models.
- Build with blocks and interlocking blocks, like Lego, to make towers and buildings.
- Let your child cut out pictures from magazines, comics, catalogues and old cards.
- Make people, animals and other objects from play dough.



Stage 5

By Stage 5 your child will know the difference between writing and drawing and that writing has meaning. Tell the difference between letters and words. Write my own name. Try to spell familiar words. Concentrate and sit still for longer

- Get a notepad for your child to write or draw in when you're out and about.
- Make a fan with your child by folding paper into a concertina
- Make maps of where you're going or where you've been or treasure maps
- Help your child to write the words to go with photos or pictures and make them into a book.
- Do jigsaws with your child (up to 30 pieces).
- Help your child make masks and hats so they can act out stories they know.
- Write party invitations together or play cafes, your child can write the menu and write down what each person wants to eat.
- Show your child how to use tools such as screwdrivers and spanners.
- Set up suitable computer games such as one from CBeebies, so that your child can learn to control a mouse.
- Play ball games with your child, throwing and catching or use bats and balls.

