

Ideas for handwriting practise at home - YEAR 1.

Year 1

It is our expectation that children leaving Year 1 should be able to form all letters cursively and may be beginning to neatly join two letters together.

- Gross and fine motor skill exercises (see some fun ideas below)
- Cursive letters are taught alongside patterns to reinforce formation.
- Numerals and capitals.
- Children are taught letters in a specific order based on formation (see handwriting overview sheet for the order we teach the children at Chapelford)
- Once children are secure in letter formation and demonstrate this across all areas of the curriculum they can progress to 2 or 3 letter joins linked when possible and appropriate to the RWI phonics programme to reinforce taught sounds. (See Year 1/2 handwriting booklet resources)

Fun Letter Formation Activities

1) Sandy Letters



Outdoor activities are always more fun than indoors, and **practicing numbers and patterns in the sand** hardly seems like work! Have your child use a stick or a finger to draw in the sand.

If you don't have access to outdoor sand, put some sand on a tray instead, for a great indoor sand activity.

2) Gloopy, Edible Letters



Put some gloopy food on a tray or plate, and have your child trace or copy the letter with a finger. You can try any squishy food that your child likes - such as yogurt, custard, angel delight or Jello instant pudding mix.

If your child dislikes the tactile sensation, then put the gloopy food in a Ziploc baggie to get the sensation without the messy feeling! Fill the bag about a quarter full, and squeeze out all the air. You will need to tape the bag down to enable the letters to be formed more easily.

3) Shaving Cream Letters



Ok, this one is really messy, but loads of fun. Stick your child in a bath or shower cubicle with a handful of shaving cream to smear and write in. For a more tactile experience, let your child use the whole hand as well as just the fingers!

Caution! Shaving cream can irritate tender skin, so use the sensitive skin variants, and don't let it get in the eyes.

4) "Wet And Dry" Letter Formation Activities



You need a chalkboard for this one. You draw the letter with chalk and then have your child trace the letter with a **piece of wet sponge** . Your child can also use their index finger to trace your letter before or after the wet sponge is used.

5) Wipe Off Letters



Write a number or letter on a whiteboard or chalkboard, and have your child trace it with a finger to wipe it off. You could also use a small piece of dry sponge dry cloth to wipe off the whiteboard marker.

6) Go outdoors



Get a bucket and fill it with water. Using a large paintbrush ask your child to make the letters in water on a fence, wall or floor. You can also try shapes and patterns to focus on gross motor skills.

