

Welcome to the Twinkl Handwriting Scheme!

The Twinkl Handwriting Scheme is designed by handwriting specialists. It takes learners on a step-by-step journey from developing fine motor skills and mastering letter formation to writing fluently and legibly with confidence. The Twinkl Handwriting Scheme is structured into **six comprehensive steps**, with four letter family mascots guiding learners on their journey. It can be used flexibly to support all learners in a whole-class setting or smaller groups.

Each step contains progressive letter packs including a lesson plan, a teaching PowerPoint with formation videos and an activity sheet to promote independent writing. Within each step, you will also find dictation activities and skills development sheets to encourage the consolidation of skills and assess handwriting progress. A range of [early years resources](#) are also available. These resources introduce learners to the foundations of letter formation and develop learners' fine motor and gross motor skills which are essential for successful handwriting.

Step 1

In **Step 1**, learners will develop the physical skills needed for writing and learn how to form letters correctly using letter formation mnemonics.

They will learn:

- to develop fine motor skills, ready for writing through warm-ups;
- to **Nip, Grip and Flip** a pencil to hold it correctly;
- to prepare for writing, sitting correctly and recognising when they are ready to write;
- to identify each letter family and understand how letters are formed in similar ways;
- to form lower-case letters, upper-case letters and digits 0–9 correctly. They will use letter formation mnemonics enabling them to start and finish in the correct place.

Step 2

In **Step 2**, learners will focus on the correct pencil grip and letter sizing, ensuring accurate placement and spacing of words.

They will learn:

- to hold a pencil correctly and comfortably and place letters correctly on the line;
- to form lower-case letters, upper-case letters and digits 0–9 with the correct size and position;
- to ensure lower-case letters are sized correctly in relation to each other and to upper-case letters;
- to add spaces between words that match the size of the letters;
- to recall each letter family and understand how letters are formed in similar ways.

Step 3

In **Step 3**, learners will be introduced to joined handwriting as a way to build writing fluency. They will develop an understanding of how to use diagonal and horizontal strokes to join letters.

They will learn:

- to recognise letters that can be joined using lead-out strokes and how this can help them to write with increasing speed;
- to write letters and words in a clear and legible way, maintaining accurate letter formation as joining is introduced;
- to use diagonal strokes and horizontal strokes to join letters;
- to identify which letters should be joined together and which should be left unjoined;
- to think about the size and orientation of letters when writing.

Step 4

In **Step 4**, learners will build on their joined handwriting skills by focusing on clarity, consistency and quality through confident use of joining strokes.

They will learn:

- to write letters and words clearly and legibly, maintaining accurate letter formation as joining becomes more consistent;
- to use diagonal and horizontal strokes confidently to join letters in independent writing;
- to improve the clarity of their handwriting by ensuring the downstrokes of letters are parallel and evenly spaced;
- to space lines successfully so that ascending and descending letters do not touch;
- to suggest ways to improve their handwriting by recalling prior knowledge of letter formation, letter families and accurate ways to join.

Step 5

In **Step 5**, learners will begin to apply their knowledge of letter formation and joined handwriting in a variety of writing contexts.

They will learn:

- to write legibly and fluently with increasing speed;
- to confidently identify which letters should be joined and unjoined;
- to choose suitable writing implements for handwriting tasks;
- to develop a clear understanding of which handwriting standard is appropriate for a particular task. For example, using quick notes or a final handwritten version;
- to use their handwriting skills across the curriculum and maintain consistent handwriting in longer written tasks.

Step 6

In **Step 6**, learners will deepen their mastery of handwriting and become confident written communicators. They will apply their knowledge, developed across the scheme, to write for a variety of purposes.

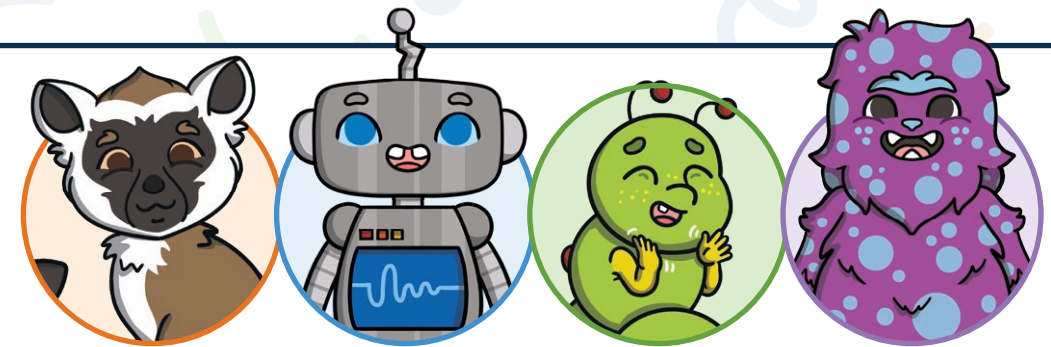
They will learn:

- to write legibly, fluently and at an increased speed across a variety of genres and contexts;
- to develop the stamina to maintain handwriting quality over longer texts, using consistent joining strokes;
- to take ownership over their handwriting, through selecting and recommending appropriate writing styles and presentation methods for different formats;
- to improve note-taking skills;
- to apply their handwriting and presentation skills across all written communication using real-life examples, such as:
 - ✓ using capital letters in application forms;
 - ✓ knowing when it is appropriate to use un-joined writing e.g. for diagrams;
 - ✓ using handwriting as a presentational tool.

Welcome to the Twinkl Early Handwriting Scheme!

The **Early Handwriting Scheme** helps learners develop pre-writing skills, letter formation and the physical foundations needed for writing. Skills are taught in a clear, sequenced progression with small steps that build and consolidate learning before moving on.

Learners are encouraged to develop curiosity and purpose in making marks, exploring pre-writing shapes and forming letters through storytelling, rhymes, play-based activities and purposeful writing. Teaching follows the sequence of Physical, Inspire, Form and Write and is organised into six blocks taught across the six half terms.



Block 1

Block 1 is the start of a learner's handwriting journey. Within **Block 1**, the focus is to enthuse and engage learners, enabling them to develop a love for mark-making while building the foundations to handwriting success.

Within Early Handwriting Block 1, learners will:

- develop a sense of curiosity around early mark making, participating in a range of pre-writing activities;
- begin to develop a range of physical skills through interactive activities;
- be introduced to each Letter Family Character and formation strokes through song verses;
- develop, explore and apply their understanding of directional and positional language through engaging, gross motor activities;
- begin to manipulate a range of small tools and writing implements;
- form pre-writing shapes linked to letter formations in a variety of multi-sensory activities.

Block 2–5

In **Blocks 2–5**, learners will begin to develop the physical skills needed for writing. They will be introduced to the letters within each letter family and explore letter formation mnemonics used to form letters.

Within Early Handwriting Blocks 2–5, learners will:

- develop gross motor skills needed for writing, including hand-eye coordination, bilateral coordination and crossing the midline;
- develop the foundational fine motor skills needed for writing, including finger strength, wrist strength and hand strength;
- build a sense of curiosity, motivation and purpose around making marks and pre-writing strokes;
- develop an awareness of directional vocabulary and use it to communicate about strokes, shapes and letters;
- identify each letter family and some letters that belong to each family;
- manipulate a range of small tools and writing implements;
- Nip, Flip and Grip** a pencil to develop a comfortable and successful pencil grip;
- use a range of writing implements to create horizontal, vertical, diagonal and circular strokes;
- form letters using green and red dots and letter formation mnemonics for support.

Block 6

In **Block 6**, learners will consolidate the physical skills needed for writing. Learners will revisit each letter within the letter families and apply the letter formation mnemonics they have learnt to strengthen their writing skills.

Within Early Handwriting Block 6, learners will:

- continue to develop gross motor skills needed for writing, including hand-eye coordination, bilateral coordination and crossing the midline;
- continue to develop the foundational fine motor skills needed for writing, including finger strength, wrist strength and hand strength;
- build a sense of curiosity, motivation and purpose around making marks and pre-writing strokes;
- revisit and develop further awareness of directional vocabulary and continue to use it to communicate about strokes, shapes and letters;
- identify each letter family and the letters that belong to each family;
- continue to manipulate a range of small tools and writing implements;
- use the **Nip, Flip and Grip** technique to continue to develop a supportive and successful pencil grip;
- continue to use a range of writing implements to create horizontal, vertical, diagonal and circular strokes;
- form letters using green and red dots and letter formation mnemonics for support;
- begin to explore activities in preparation for Step 1.

Educator Considerations

This sequence of learning supports learners to explore as they gradually develop skills in letter formation, early writing and the physical skills needed for writing.

It is important to acknowledge that every learner is unique and develops and learns at different rates.

We advise you to use your judgement and knowledge of learners to plan activities and consider the appropriateness of the resources in relation to their needs, interests, emotional well-being and journey of development.

