

Handwriting at Comberton Primary School

We follow the Read, Write Inc handwriting scheme and our children will work through the following stages in their handwriting.

Correct handwriting position

- feet flat on the floor
- bottom at the back of the chair
- body one fist from the table
- shoulders down and relaxed
- back leaning forward slightly
- left/right hand holding the page
- left/right hand ready in a tripod grip.

Letter formation

Children begin by learning the correct formation of letters, taught in the following groups:

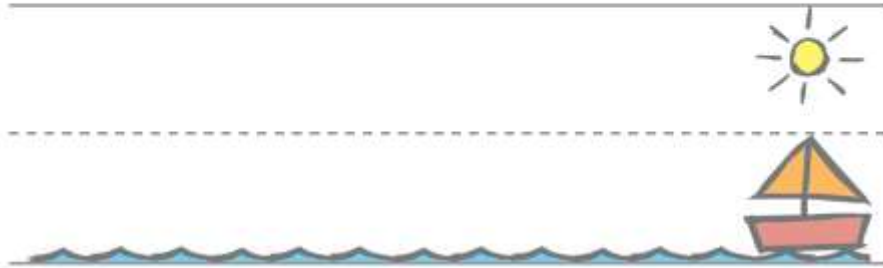
- 'Around' letters: **c a o d g q**
- 'Down' letters: **l t b p k h i j m n r u y**
- 'Curly' letters: **e f s**
- 'Zig-zag' letters: **v w z x**.

Relative size of letters

Once children can form the letters correctly, they learn how to place the letters on the line. Picture mnemonics help children to visualise the size and placement.

- Some small letters are called 'boat letters': **a c e i m n o r s u v w x z**.
- Letters that are written below the line are called 'water letters': **g j p q y**.
- Tall letters are called 'sun letters': **b d h k l t f**.

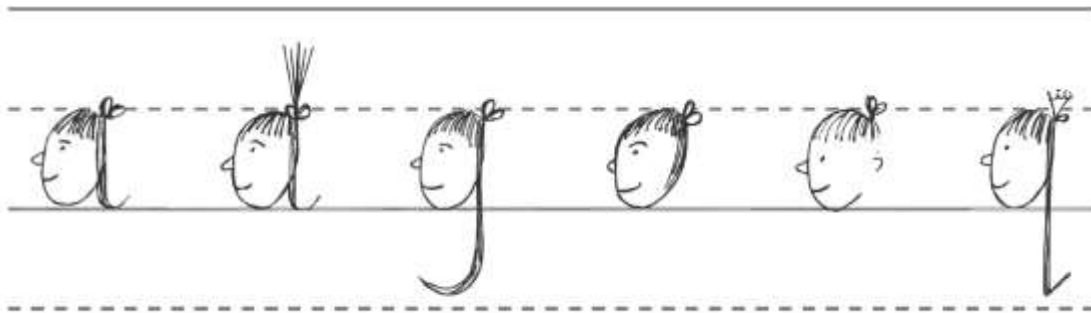
As the children move through school, they will also use the terminology 'ascenders' and 'descenders'.



Formation families

Children then develop their style of writing in the lead up to joined up handwriting.

The six sisters – Annie, Dina, Gabi, Olivia, Carina and Queenie – all look the same. Their mother tells them that they must all have a different haircut so people can tell them apart!



The uncles – Uncle Umberto and Uncle Yaseen – look just like the sisters, except they are bald on the top of their heads.



The family have a dog and a bunny whose faces are very similar too, but they have long ears.



Handwriting joins

Children learn to join using two basic joins:

- the arm join (diagonal)
- the washing line join (horizontal).

Arm joins sweep up to touch the next letter.

Washing line joins should sweep across to the next letter.

The arm join has three variations:

- arm to boat The letters 'ai' are written on handwriting lines. The 'a' has a diagonal arm that sweeps up to touch the 'i'. A small boat icon is next to the 'i'.
- arm to sun The letters 'ab' are written on handwriting lines. The 'a' has a diagonal arm that sweeps up to touch the 'b'. A small sun icon is next to the 'b'.
- arm to sister. The letters 'ic' are written on handwriting lines. The 'i' has a diagonal arm that sweeps up to touch the 'c'. A small sister icon is next to the 'c'.

The washing line join has three variations:

- washing line to boat The letters 'wr' are written on handwriting lines. The 'w' has a horizontal washing line that sweeps across to touch the 'r'. A small boat icon is next to the 'r'.
- washing line to sun The letters 'wh' are written on handwriting lines. The 'w' has a horizontal washing line that sweeps across to touch the 'h'. A small sun icon is next to the 'h'.
- washing line to sister. The letters 'va' are written on handwriting lines. The 'v' has a horizontal washing line that sweeps across to touch the 'a'. A small sister icon is next to the 'a'.