

Every Child Is a
Writer: Writing
strategies to use at
home



Tuesday 03/03/26 9:00-9:30am	Understanding early writing development	Mrs Tracey	-What early writing is -Fine motor and gross motor skills -Examples of real early writing stages	EYFS KS1
Tuesday 10/03/24 9:00-9:30am	Writing strategies at home	Mrs Tracey	-How to encourage talk before writing -Modelling writing in everyday life -Phonics in writing — what “using sounds” looks like -Creating a writing-friendly home environment	EYFS KS1
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“What counts as writing?”

- Drawing pictures and talking about them
- Making marks with crayons, paint, chalk or sticks
- Scribbles (even if they look random!)
- Lines, circles, zig-zags and shapes
- Pretending to write in role play (e.g. writing a shopping list)
- Giving meaning to marks (“This says mummy”)

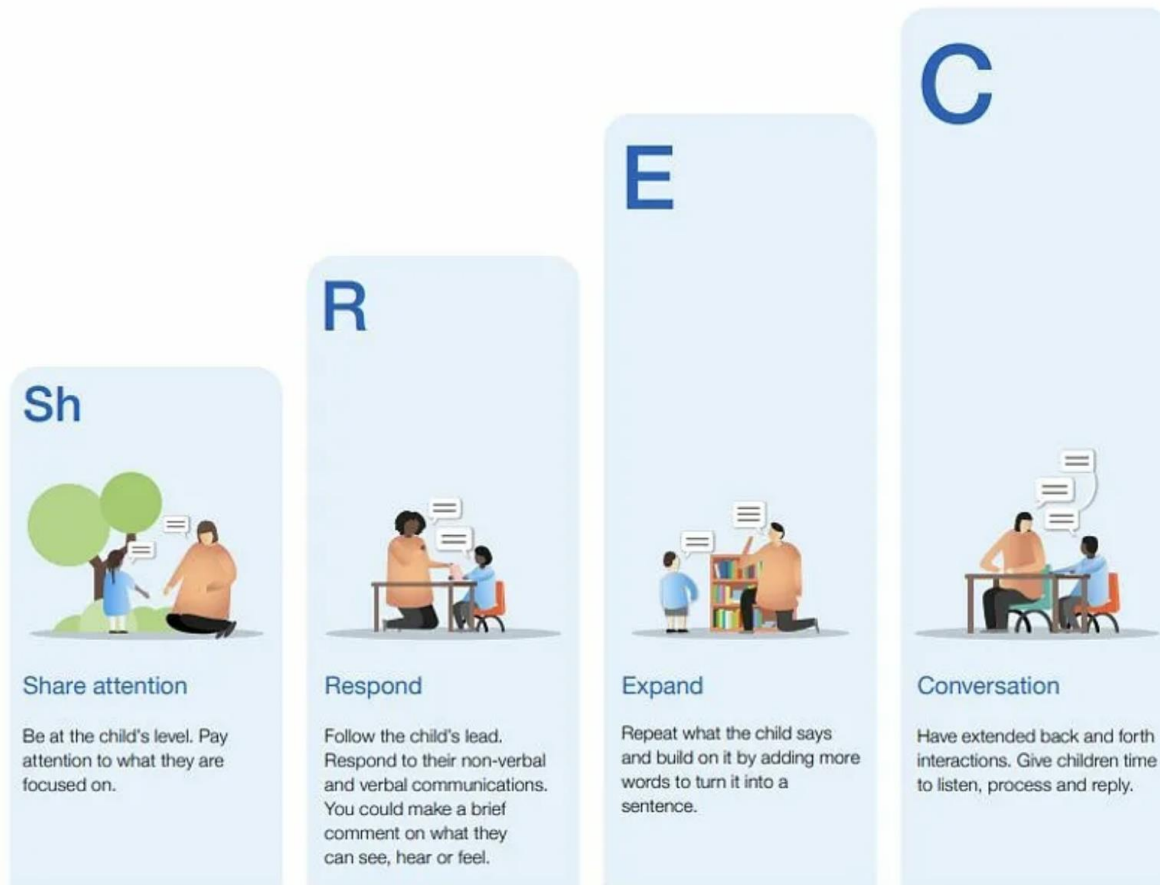


How do children become writers?

- Motivation – wanting to have a go
- Communication – speech and language
- Imaginative skills – role play and storytelling
- Physical skills – fine and gross motor skills, handwriting
- Literacy skills -phonics, spelling and grammar
- Purpose and audience – reasons for mark making and writing



Encouraging talk at home



<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/the-shrec-approach>

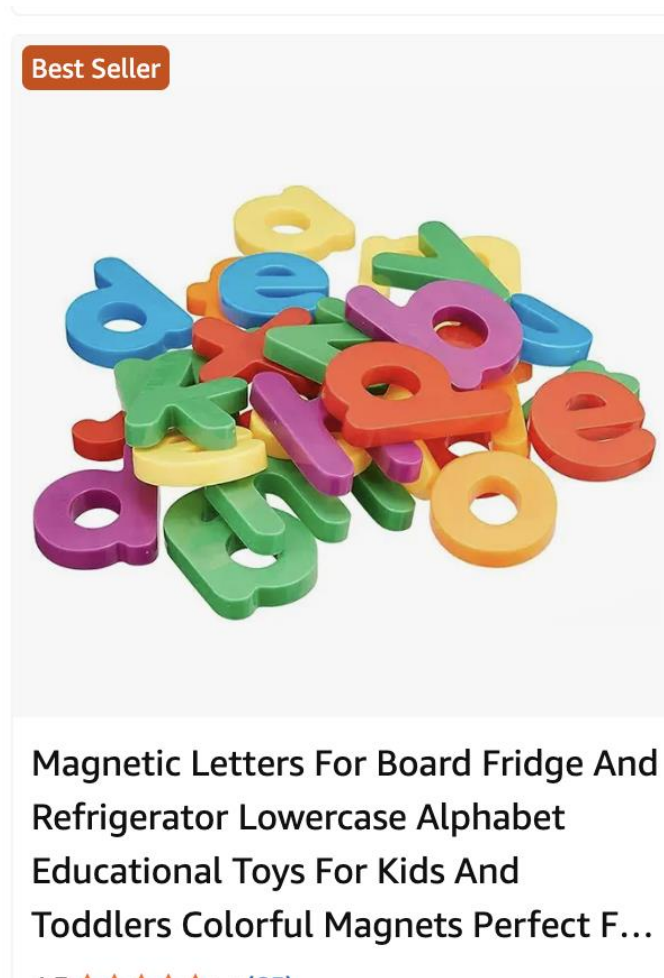
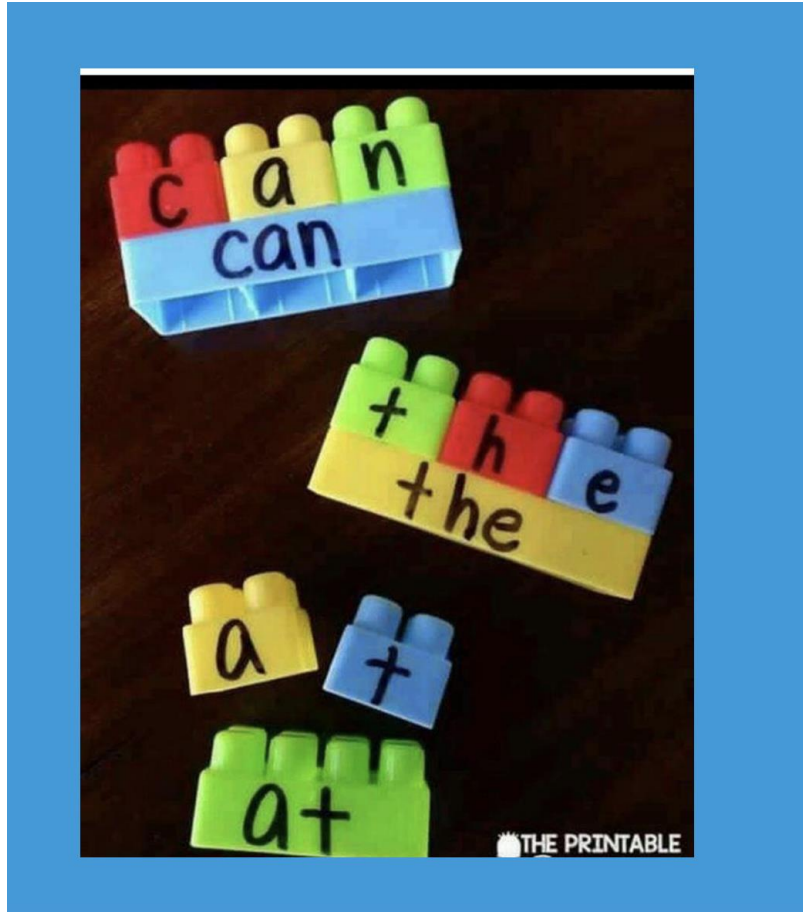
Narrate your day:

“I’m cutting the carrots.”

“These are crunchy carrots.”

“Let’s stir the pasta.”

Encouraging phonics at home



1. Spot sounds

In the supermarket:

“Can you see something that starts with **s**?”

2. Sound talk

Instead of spelling the word, say the sounds:

cat → **c-a-t**

3. Oral blending game

Say sounds slowly:

“What word is this... c-a-t?”

Child says **cat**.

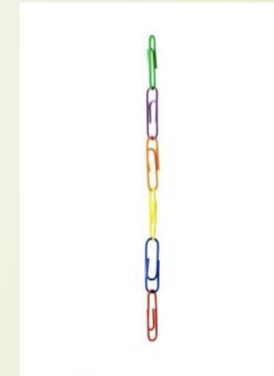
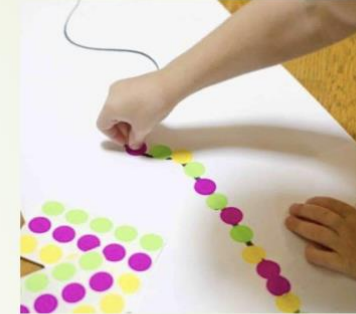
4. Robot talking

Why are fine motor skills important?



- Having good gross and fine motor skills are essential to developing writing.
- We need good fine motor skills to:
 - Be able to use the correct pencil grip
 - To prevent tiring during writing
 - To be able to form legible letters
 - To be able to control letter size

Supporting activities - home made



Playdough or dough

Activities:

- Roll **snakes**
- Pinch **tiny balls**
- Make **letters or shapes**

Skills built:

- Finger strength
- Hand control

How to make playdough

Makes 1 coloured ball

Prep 10 minutes

You will need

- 8 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp table salt
- 60ml warm water
- food colouring
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil



<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>

Peg Games

Peg Games

- Use **clothes pegs and a bowl/box.**
- Ideas:
- Clip pegs around a box
- Match colours
- Count pegs

Skills built:

- Pincer grip (same grip used for pencils)



Helping in the kitchen

Cooking is amazing for fine motor skills.

- Let children:
- Stir mixtures
- Sprinkle flour
- Tear lettuce
- Peel oranges
- Spread butter

Skills built:

- Hand strength
- Coordination



Finger Drawing

- Use everyday things:

Write in **flour**

Draw in **salt**

Draw on **steamed mirrors**

Draw in **sand or soil**

Skills built:

- Letter formation without pressure
- Confidence



Cutting and Tearing

Use:

- Old magazines
- Junk mail
- Newspapers
- Activities:
- Tear strips
- Cut shapes
- Make collages

Skills built:

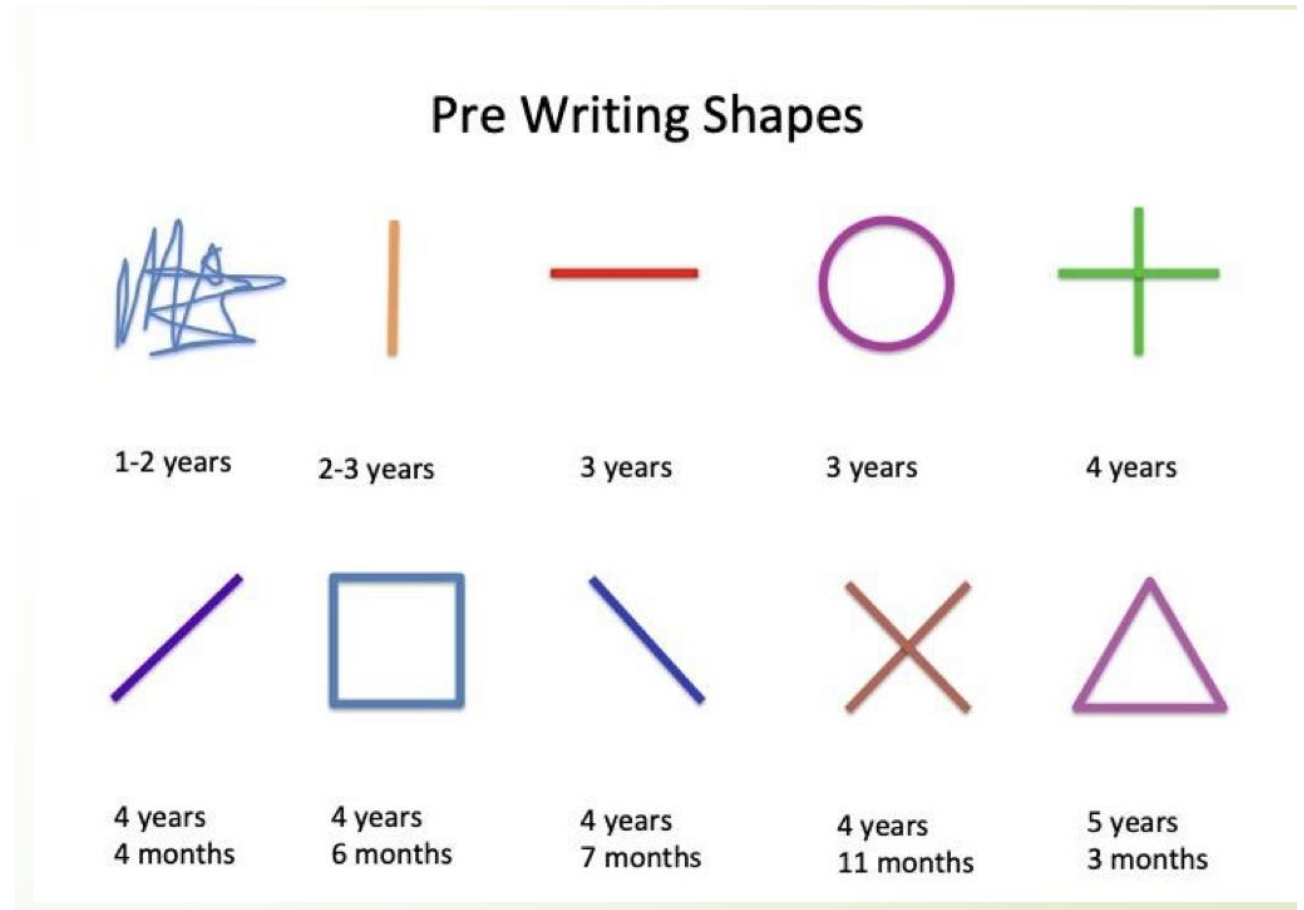
- Finger control
- Bilateral coordination



Simply just writing!

Children will start to give meaning to marks they make, such as drawing a scribble or a line and saying “mummy” or “spider”.

- Children will begin to copy simple patterns and pre-writing shapes
- They will then use simple shapes to create simple representation of things.
- It is important that children can form the pre-writing shapes, this shows that they are ready to form letters.



- Mediums:
 - - Shaving foam
 - - Corn flour
 - - Water
 - - Rice
 - - Flour/Salt/Sugar
 - - Glitter
 - - Sand
 - - Mud
 - - Large paper
 - - On the floor outside
 - - Whiteboard/blackboard

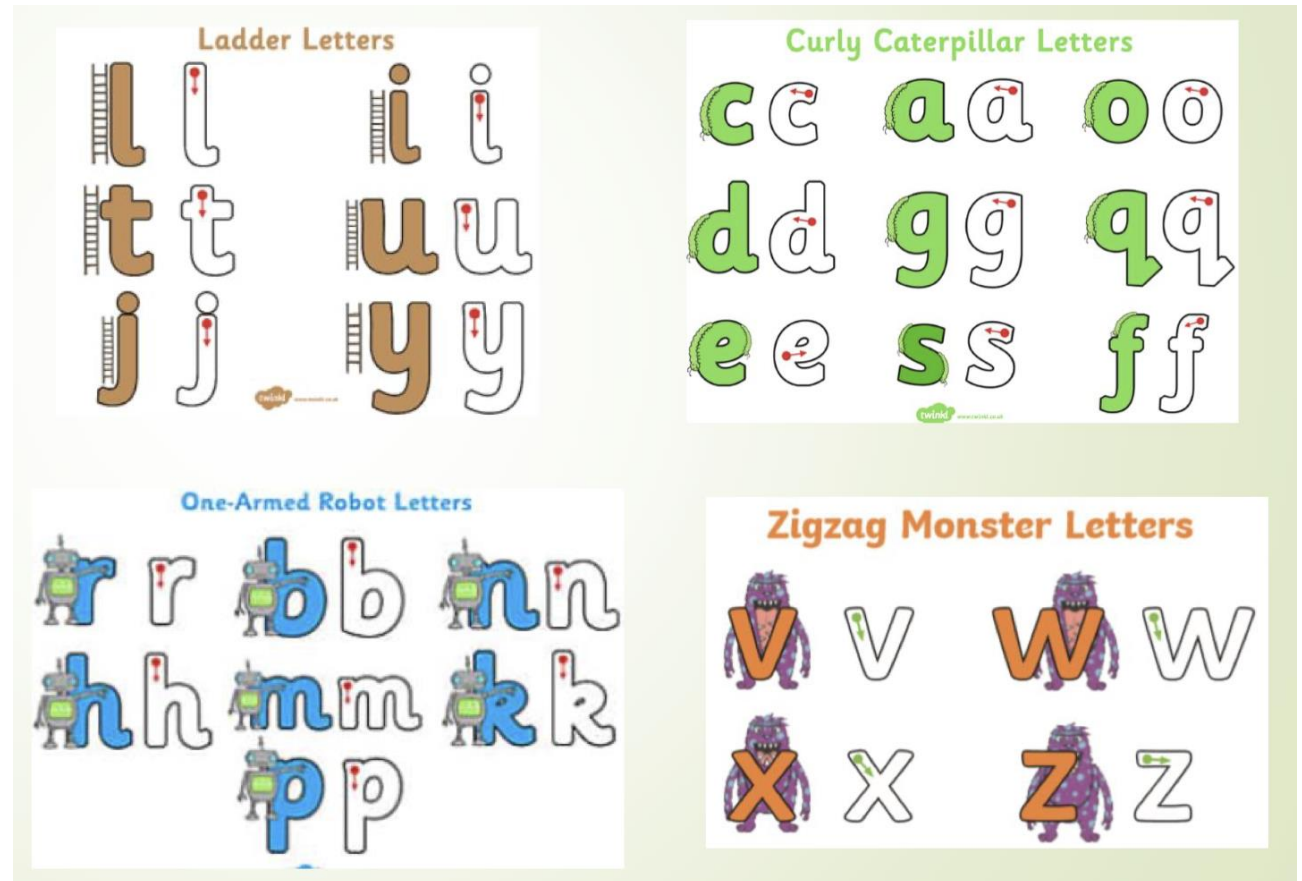
Tools:

- Our hands!
- Paintbrushes
- Rollers
- Chunky chalk/pens/pencils/crayons
- Sponges
- Printing: potatoes, potato masher, cardboard cut outs, pom poms, cotton wool balls/buds
- *Cars/Animals*

- ➡ Children learn to print letters before doing cursive handwriting later on in school.

➡ Starting to learn letters in 'letter families' can help children to master the movement and pattern that letters have

Keep practising them on a large and small scale



Purposeful writing opportunities

Shopping lists

- milk
- cake
- apples
- Even if it looks like:
- mk / apl

Notes

- Leave notes like:
- “I love you. From Dad”
- Child writes back.

Labels

- Label things around the house:
- door
- bed
- toy box

Play writing

- restaurant menus
- treasure maps
- birthday cards
- superhero messages

Big writing

- chalk outside
- writing in sand
- paintbrush and water on walls/fences

Great for **fine motor development**.

Words For Life Resource



<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

Learn and play

How old is your child?

0-6 months

[View Activities >](#)

6-12 months

[View Activities >](#)

1-2 years

[View Activities >](#)

3-4 years

[View Activities >](#)

5-8 years

[View Activities >](#)

9-12 years

[View Activities >](#)



Milestones by three years old

[Read now](#)



Milestones for 4-year-olds

[Read now](#)



Sharing stories together

[Read now](#)

Next session

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