

15 Ways to support your child with recognising and writing their name

Always only use a capital letter for the first letter of your child's name. The rest of the letters should be lower case.

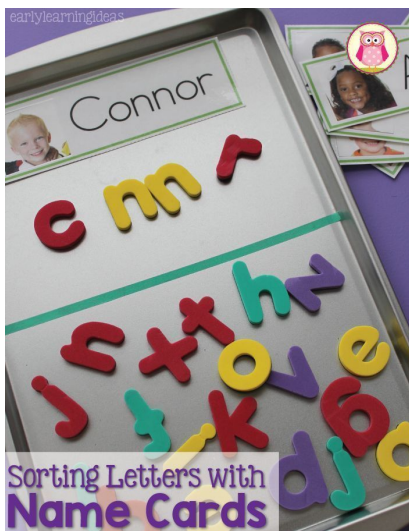
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When completing any name writing activity with your child ensure you talk about the sounds that each of the letters in their name make.

This way they will learn how their name is written with letters in the same way as other words and will not just learn to "draw" their name as a picture. We learn and use letter sounds rather than letter names first when looking at letters in school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-eTO8L3t4O>

This is a simple youtube video showing correct pronunciation of every phonics sound your child may need when learning to recognise and form their name.



Use magnetic letters on the fridge or on baking tray.

This can begin with your child just having the letters they need to make their name and a written name card to copy. Can they arrange the letters in the right order to make their name? Having a photo of them on your child's name card reinforces that the writing they can see is their name.

Step 2 is to ask your child to select the letters for their name from a larger selection and order these using their name card.

Step 3 is to remove your child's name card and see if they can recall the letters they need and organise them into the correct order by themselves. If this is proving tricky then try reintroducing just the letters your child needs to make their name to see if they can recall the order they need to put the letters in.



Make your child a lolly pop stick name ordering envelope

Lolly pop sticks are easily available in children's craft sections of many shops. Write one letter of your child's name on each lolly pop stick. Fold a piece of paper as in the

picture and staple it into pocket sections. Write one letter on each pocket section. Your child can then insert the correct lolly pop stick into the matching letter pocket to make their name.

Name letter matching and ordering with pegs.



Write your child's name on a name card. Write one letter from their name on each peg. Can your child clip the pegs on the card in the correct order matching the letters.

Step 2 is to try turning the card over as a challenge so that your child cannot see their name to copy.

Name collage and mosaics



Write your child's name (fairly largely) on a piece of paper or chalkboard – give them household items to arrange on top of the letters. This is good for developing the fine motor skill required for writing as well if the items are a little fiddly to arrange over the letters. This activity can be refreshed several times by choosing different items to collage.

Buttons

Stones from the garden

Pasta pieces

Pennies

Cooked spaghetti!

Cotton bud name painting

Write your child's name out for them and get them to paint over it in little dots using a cotton bud – this is good for fine motor skills as well.



Get out the play dough



Play dough is really easy to make. There is a recipe link below.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/play-dough-recipe>

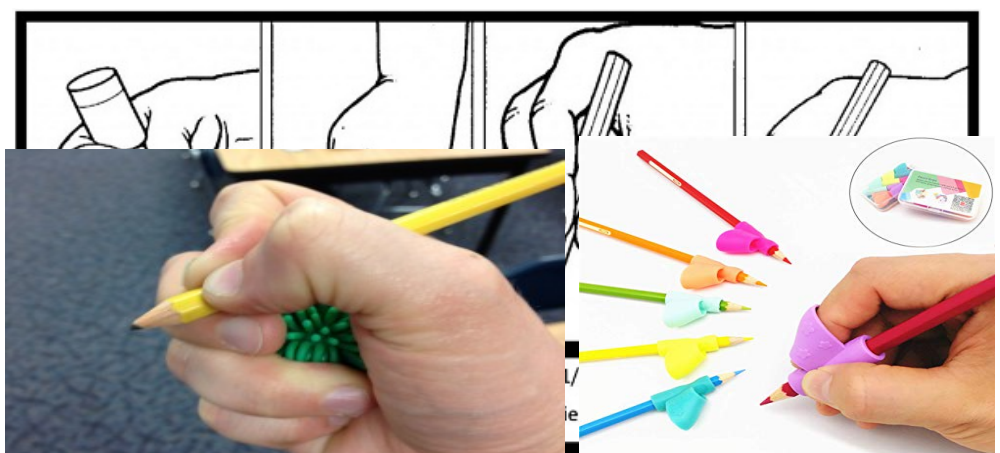
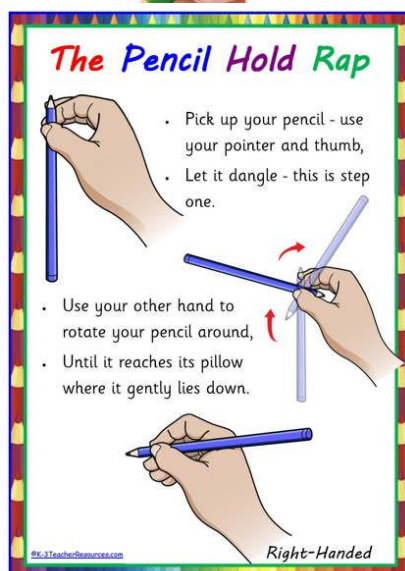
Use your play dough (home made or from a shop) to roll into sausage shapes and use to form the letters in your child's name. If needed this activity can be simplified by giving your child a large written version of their name first, as in the collage activity above. Or write your child's name out on a name card to show them.

Try again another time without the prompt. Sometimes the effort of simply trying to remember something before being shown again is as important as the practise with support in how quickly a child learns something new.

When you think your child is familiar with all of the letters in their name and the correct order they go in you can move on to letter formation if you wish. Proceed with caution before doing this. It is essential that children have well developed fine motor skills and pencil grip in other drawing and colouring activities before they begin writing. If they are not comfortable with using pencils, pens and other writing equipment for less challenging activities they are unlikely to find writing enjoyable and the last thing we want to do is put our children off writing before they have truly begun.



Correct pencil grip can be encouraged in a number of ways with pencil grips which can be ordered online and other small tricks, but it frequently develops of it's own accord as your child matures and grows.



Letter formation



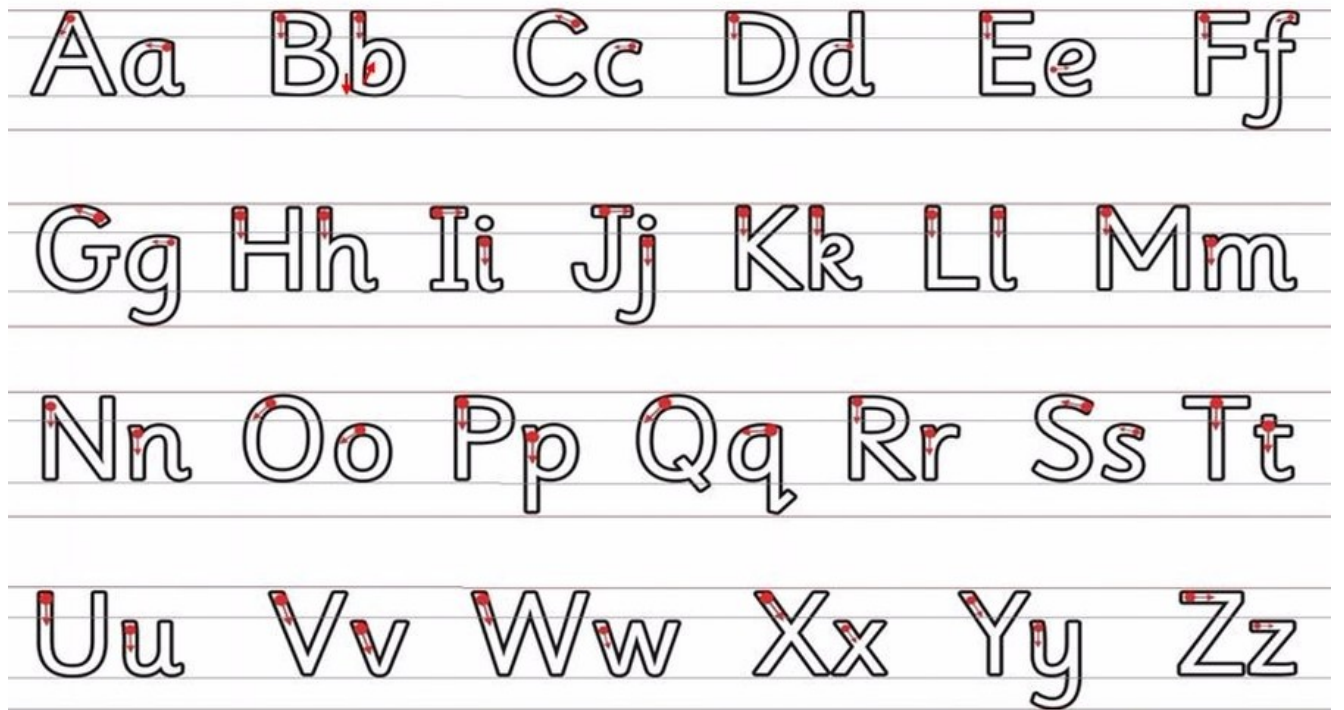
Letter formation

When forming letters it is important that children are taught how to form letters correctly from the outset rather than being left to copy them independently by combining the lines and curves of each letter as the separate parts they see. If children learn and practice their letter formation incorrectly this can become a tricky habit to break.

Almost every letter with the exception of d and e start at the top.

Almost every letter with the exception of i, j, t, and f should be written from start to finish without removing pencil from the paper.

Below is a letter formation sheet to support you with teaching correct letter formation if you decide to start helping your child to write.



Sensory Writing



Fill a small shallow tray/baking tray with a household item such as lentils/rice/flour and show your child how to write the first letter of their name with their finger.

Step 2 is to move on to showing your child one more letter at a time from their name and how to form it. Do this one letter at a time until your child can correctly form each of the letters of their name in sequence.



This can even be done as a fun activity with shaving foam on the bathroom tiles during bath time.

Write outside



For a change from sitting down with a pen and paper inside, why not try some

writing outside with sticks in the mud or with large chalks on the driveway/patio/pavement.

Tracing

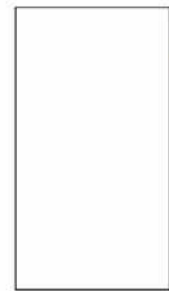
Tracing over yellow pen or dots is fine but don't forget to ensure correct letter formation, e.g. starting at the correct place and following the letter through to the end. If your child is struggling to do this just practice one letter at a time until they have perfected it. Let them watch you repeat it several times before they try. Support them by holding your hand over theirs if needed. Keep stopping to show them and support them before they have another attempt themselves.

Praise Praise Praise

Praise their efforts. "You are trying so hard and that means soon you will be able to do it if you don't give up!"

Learning to write your name correctly takes time, patience and practice. They will not get it straight away. If you or they start to feel too frustrated then take a break. Little and often is the best way.

*I can't do
it...YET!*



Name _____

