



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.