



A clear structure for  
rapid handwriting progress

---

# Welcome to Twinkl Handwriting

## our comprehensive handwriting programme

- ✓ covers all the **statutory requirements** for handwriting from the **2014 National Curriculum for English**.
- ✓ Helps you take primary-aged **pupils on a journey** from pre-writing at EYFS/ KS1 to a **fluent, legible and joined handwriting style** by the end of KS2.
- ✓ Developed by **specialist teachers** to provide everything you need to teach high-quality handwriting sessions within both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- ✓ Providing an **active, fun approach** that aims to develop a **fast, fluent and legible handwriting style** within every pupil.
- ✓ Includes activity packs with a flexible **Handwriting Help Card, Lesson Presentation** with illustrative animations, **guidance posters**, plus corresponding **activity sheets**.

This overview is your guide and should cover any questions you have. If there is something you need help with then please don't hesitate to [get in touch](#).

**A clear structure for rapid handwriting progress**

Team Twinkl<sub>x</sub>

# Contents

Twinkl Handwriting	4
Handwriting activity packs	5
Handwriting help card	6
Lesson presentation	7
Guidance posters	8
Activity sheets	9
Celebrating success	10
Assessment materials	11
Cursive or continuous cursive?	12
Perfect timing	13
Handwriting joins	14
Letter families	15
Capital letter families	16
National curriculum links	17
Created by teachers	19
See for yourself	20

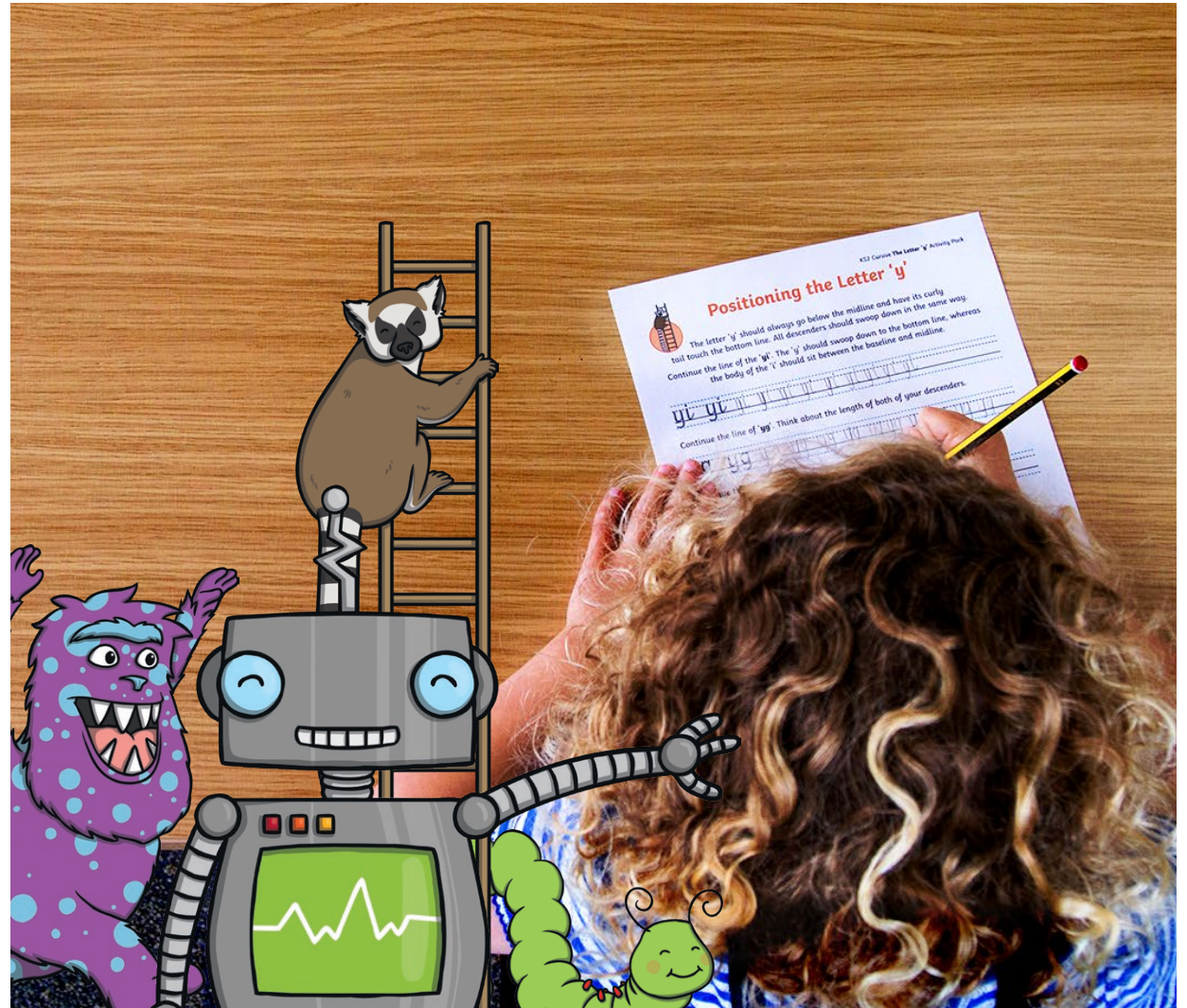
# Twinkl Handwriting

The hassle-free teaching toolkit for whole-school handwriting.

**Twinkl Handwriting is your comprehensive and easy-to-use toolkit of essential resources, created by experienced teachers and provided to help you teach handwriting to children of all ages and abilities - from EYFS through to UKS2.**

We've done the hard work for you, creating high quality content you can trust at each stage - saving you hours of precious prep time. Plus, with hundreds of age-related resources at your fingertips - many with the option to differentiate - you'll have the time and flexibility to pick and mix your teaching, ensuring each child learns at their own pace.

- ✓ **Shape your whole-school approach** - decide which handwriting style best suits your school and its needs.
- ✓ **Personalise learning** - Twinkl's free fonts make it easy to create your own supportive resources in a consistent style.
- ✓ **Bring fun and excitement** - resources include animated PowerPoints, interactive presentations and warm-up GIFs to engage learning.



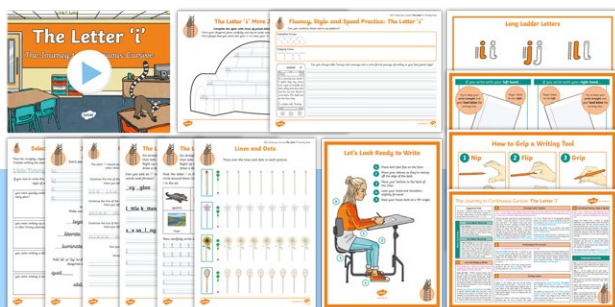
# Handwriting activity pack

## Discover your essential Twinkl teaching toolkit.

**Each Handwriting Activity Pack contains everything you need, making your life hassle and preparation free!**

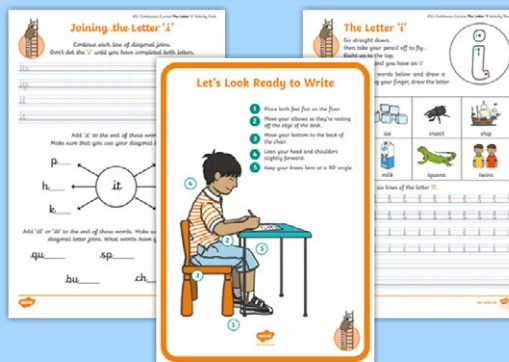
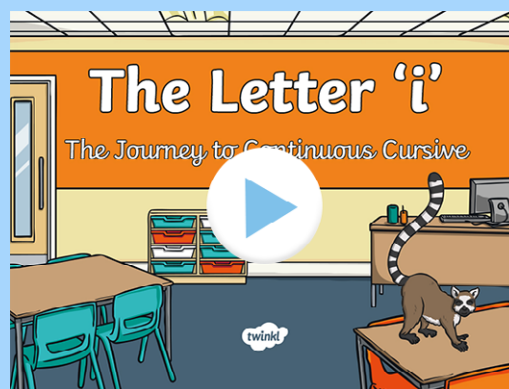
All packs are available in both Cursive and Continuous Cursive fonts and you have the choice of either KS1 or KS2 versions.

Within each pack you'll find a Handwriting Help Card to guide you through the lessons, a Lesson Presentation, Guidance Posters and multiple Activity Sheets to support your class every step of the way.



The Journey to Continuous Cursive: The Letter 'i' (Ladder Family Help Card 2) KS2 Activity Pack

### Activity packs



The Journey to Continuous Cursive: The Letter 'i' (Ladder Family Help Card 2) KS1 Activity Pack





# Handwriting activity pack

## Handwriting help card.

Each Activity Pack contains a Handwriting Help Card to guide you through teaching the activities and resources within the pack.

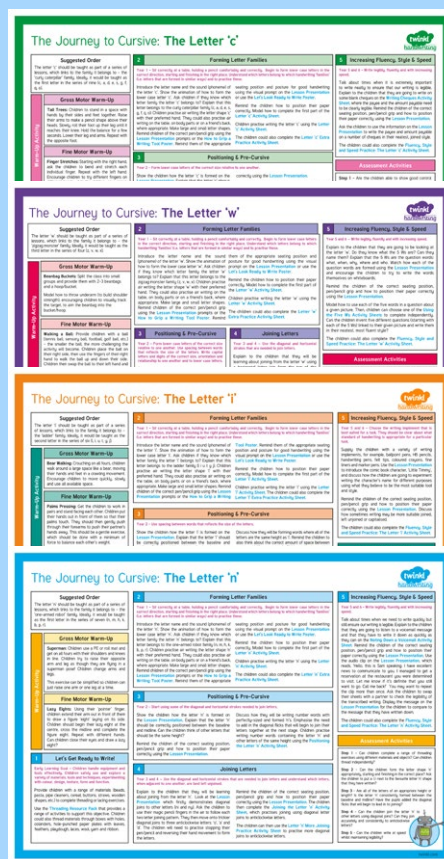
Help cards cover all areas of the National Curriculum, although some aspects might not suit children with a specifically identified writing difficulty.

- ✓ Great for teaching **whole class activities**, or **small group interventions**
- ✓ Can also be used to pick key areas for **1:1 target follow-up work**.
- ✓ Includes exercises that can be given as **home learning activities**.

### Twinkl Tip!

Children should be guided through each writing step and should be secure in this area before they progress.

## The journey to cursive helping cards.



**Warm-up** - sessions should be completed before every handwriting lesson to build hand and wrist strength, upper body strength, and to improve co-ordination.

**Let's Get Ready to Write!** - Short sessions designed to develop gross and fine motor skills to build strength and stability, and visual perception skills.

**Forming Letter Families** - Sessions to teach children the sets of 'letter families' with the aim of securing the correct letter formation.

**Positioning & Pre-Cursive** - Sessions designed to teach the formation of letters as a pre-cursor to joining.

**Joining Letters** - Sessions which introduce different types of letter joins (and the letters best left unjoined) in an aim to increase legibility, quality and consistency.

**Increasing Fluency, Speed & Style** - Sessions to further practise fluency and speed as well as pupils' own individual personalised handwriting style.

**Assessment Activities** - Specific assessment opportunities to be used within each step of the teaching sequence.

# Handwriting activity pack

## Lesson presentation.

Every Handwriting Activity Pack comes with a PowerPoint Lesson Presentation. This guides teachers and pupils through each stage of the teaching sequence.

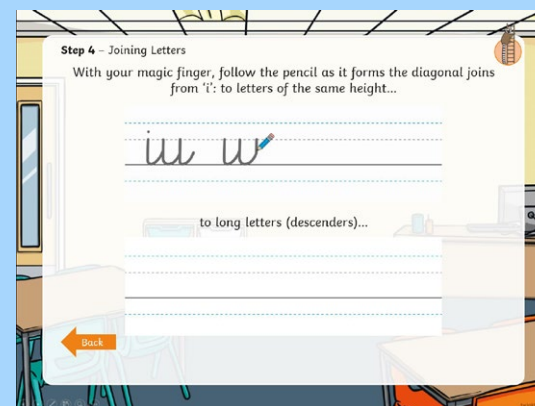
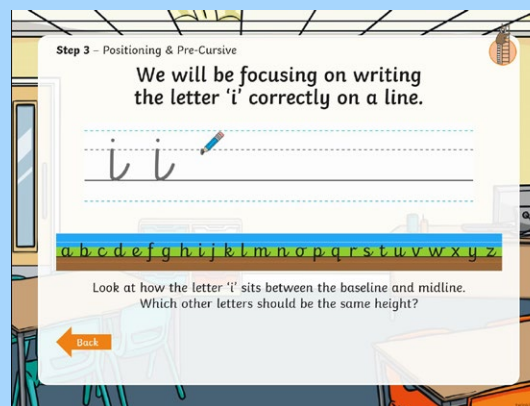
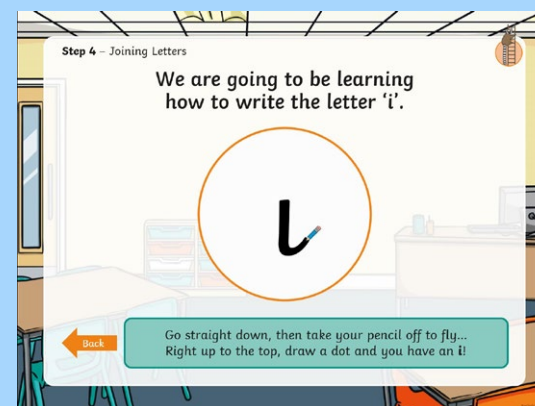
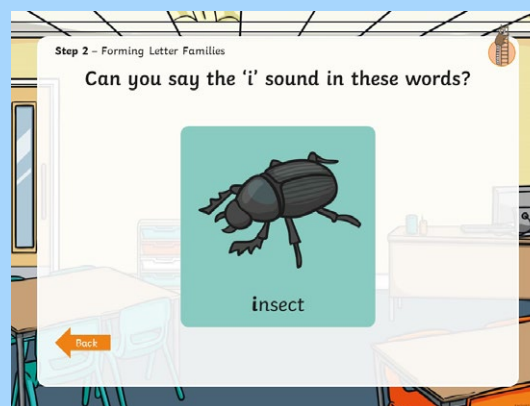
Every presentation uses unique Twinkl animations to clearly show the letter formations and joins. These are so exciting and really do keep your children engaged, helping them pick up letter formation even quicker and accelerate their progress.



The Journey to Cursive: The Letter 'i' (Ladder Family Help Card 2) KS1 Activity Pack



### Our handwriting presentations.



# Handwriting activity pack

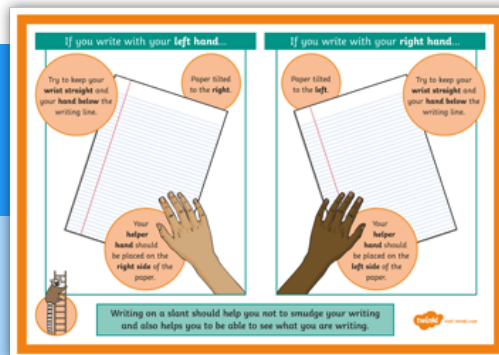
## Guidance posters.

Each pack also contains a set of posters that are great to display on a classroom handwriting showcase board as a constant reminder about correct seating position, paper position and pen/pencil grip.

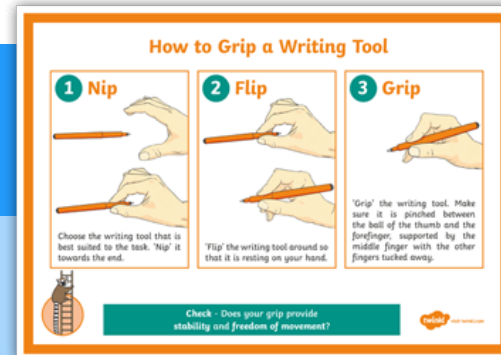
How a pupil sits and even where they place the paper on their desk can make a big difference to handwriting quality. That's why correct positioning is something we revisited throughout the sessions.



Let's Look Ready to Write Poster



How to Position Your Paper Poster



How to Grip a Writing Tool Poster

Handwriting teaching should be tailored for lefthanded pupils. For instance, because the lower case 't' is formed differently by some left-handed writers, it might be better for them to leave it unjoined. Some capital letters are often formed differently too, such as E, F, H, I, J and T.

Remind left-handed children how to position their paper – this lets them view their writing and also prevents 'smudging'.

Left-handed writers should hold their pencil or pen slightly higher (about 2cm from the tip) so they can clearly see what they're writing.

Plus, make sure right-handed children aren't seated on the left-hand side of a left-handed child - this prevents their elbows colliding.

Many children hold their pen or pencil in unconventional ways, as do many competent writers. In fact, the National Handwriting Association tells us there's no evidence linking poor grasp with poor handwriting. So it's important that children aren't made to hold a pen or pencil in a way that feels uncomfortable.

However, the dynamic tripod grasp is recommended once a child is old enough to hold a pencil or pen - this offers the greatest control and helps minimise the risk of strain.

Pupils are encouraged to think about how to 'nip, flip and grip' their chosen writing implement.



# Handwriting activity pack

## Activity sheets.

Each pack contains a number of high quality activity sheets too. These support children at every step in the teaching sequence. Use these sheets alongside the Lesson Presentation to support everything from pencil control to increasing fluency, style and speed.

Follow the guidance on the Handwriting Help Cards to know what stage to use each activity sheet and tips on how to use them.

### Our handwriting presentations.

1 Let's get ready to write!

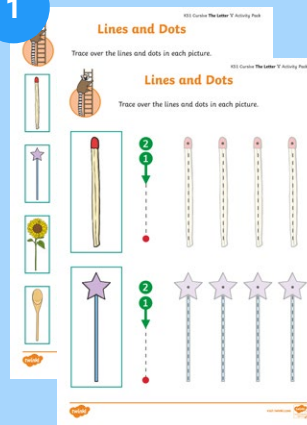
2 Forming letter families

3 Positioning & pre-cursive

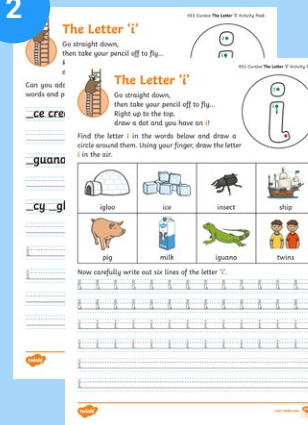
4 Joining letters

5 Increasing fluency, style & speed

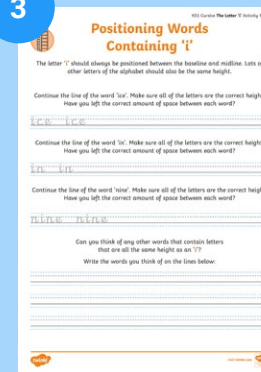
1



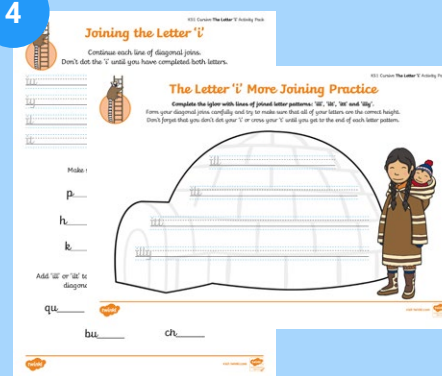
2



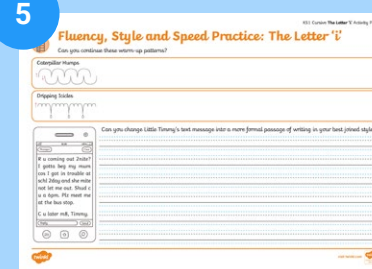
3



4



5



# Celebrating success

Great ways to showcase great work.

**Setting high expectations and celebrating great work really does encourage children to make handwriting progress.**

- ✓ Incentives like motivational certificates or pen licences can encourage children to work on handwriting targets.
- ✓ **Plus, a display showing exceptional improvements and high standards is a great way to showcase handwriting achievements.**

**Getting it right - why fluent, speedy and legible handwriting is so important.**

It's vital that pupils can produce legible handwriting at speed, with a minimum of thought. This lets them focus on the composition and content of their writing. It also helps their learning in other curriculum areas too.

*'Without fast and legible handwriting, students may miss out on learning opportunities and under-achieve academically.'*

**National Handwriting Association.**

**The journey to cursive helping cards.**



Display Banner



Pen License Cards



Pen License Certificate

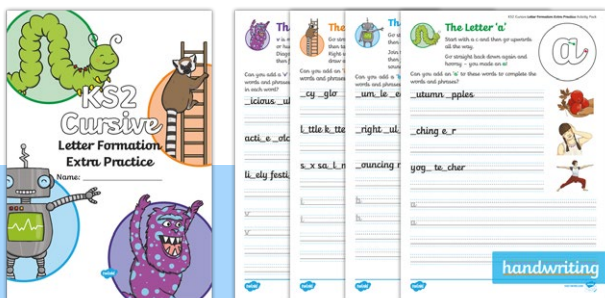
# Assessment materials

## Track your pupils' handwriting journey.

**Assess, record and track your classes progress with our handy assessment materials.**

Use the Pangram Assessment Activity Sheets to assess your pupils' handwriting and record and track their progress against the national curriculum requirements using the Handwriting Coverage and Assessment Pack.

The Handwriting Coverage and Assessment Pack includes multiple spread sheets including a Letter Formation Tracker, an Assessment Tracker and a Coverage Document.



## KS2 Cursive Letter Formation Extra Practice Activity Booklet

**Pangrams contain every letter of the alphabet at least once, so they cover the formation of every cursive letter!**

## Handwriting Coverage and Assessment Pack

[illegible]

## KS1 Handwriting Pangram Assessment Activity Sheets

**The Journey to Curious: Handwriting Pangrams**  
Handwriting practice sheet for the Journey to Curious series. Includes a title, a paragraph of text, and a series of lines for handwriting practice.

**The Journey to Curious: Handwriting Pangrams**  
Handwriting practice sheet for the Journey to Curious series. Includes a title, a paragraph of text, and a series of lines for handwriting practice.

**The Journey to Curious: Handwriting Pangrams**  
Handwriting practice sheet for the Journey to Curious series. Includes a title, a paragraph of text, and a series of lines for handwriting practice.

## The Journey to Curious: Handwriting Pangrams

A pangram is a sentence that contains every letter of the alphabet at least once.

Read each pangram carefully. Trace it 5 times and then write it independently in your notebook, joined style three times.

**The five boxing wizards jumped quickly.**

*The five boxing wizards jumped quickly.*

The five boxing wizards jumped quickly.

*The five boxing wizards jumped quickly.*

## KS2 Handwriting Pangram Assessment Activity Sheets

[illegible]

### Twinkl Tip!

All Pangram Activity Sheets have a wide line alternative version to cover lower ability learners.

# Cursive or continuous cursive?

Choose the best handwriting style for your school.

Twinkl Handwriting offers two handwriting styles, each with separate activity packs. Schools can choose to follow the 'Journey to Cursive Handwriting', or the 'Journey to Continuous Cursive' programme. Both options take pupils on a journey through the progressive stages suggested in the National Curriculum.

What's the difference? From Step 3 of the Continuous Cursive programme, children are taught to add lead-ins to their lower case letters, as shown on the right.

We don't advocate one style over another. However, we do recommend that schools choose their handwriting style and then adopt a whole school approach.

## Twinkl Tip!

Remember, whichever style you choose, handwriting will require frequent, discrete and direct teaching.

### Twinkl cursive

a b c d e f g  
h i j k l m n  
o p q r s t v  
w x y z

### Twinkl continuous cursive

a b c d e f  
g h i j k l m  
n o p q r s  
t v w x y z

### Weighing up your options – here's what the experts say...

There are many contrasting views around when and how children should be taught a joined style of handwriting. For example, The British Dyslexia Foundation recommends children use a continuous cursive style as early as possible:

'Typically, when first learning to write, children 'print' their letters. They then move on to 'joined up' writing at a later stage. For children with dyslexia, learning two styles of handwriting can add an extra layer of difficulty and cause confusion. It is, therefore, much more helpful if a young child can learn to use a single system of handwriting right from the start.'

**(British Dyslexia Association)**

However, The National Handwriting Association suggests that a continuous cursive style (where lead-ins are taught from EYFS) could cause confusion for some children:

'Some schools teach young children to begin each letter from the base line. This means that the starting point is very easy to remember but it may complicate the visual image of some of the letters and also result in the need for some relearning when the child begins to join letters together. The letters joined from 'o', 'r', 'v' and 'w' do not start from the baseline, which then requires children to relearn an established movement pattern, which is not good practice.'

**(National Handwriting Association)**



# Perfect timing

## Discover when to teach 'joining'

**The 2014 National Curriculum says pupils should 'start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters' from Year 2. It also encourages schools to teach children 'to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation'.**

Using a joined handwriting style is not a statutory requirement until Key Stage 2. With this in mind, our Handwriting Help Cards and accompanying PowerPoint Lesson Presentation follow six key development stages.



All Twinkl 'Handwriting Activity Packs' are **available in KS1 and KS2 designs** - content is mainly the same for each key stage.



However, KS1 and KS2 packs have slight differences in their **age-appropriate illustrations, keywords/spellings and design.**



This helps you **accommodate those older children** who may still need to consolidate the skills outlined in steps 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Remember, these steps aren't designed to be taught to a specific age group. Each step provides ideas to develop a specific area of handwriting that would work well with all primary age children.

### Warm-up activities

Developed to build hand and wrist strength, upper body strength and improve co-ordination. (Recommended to be used at the beginning of every handwriting session.)

### Let's get ready to write!

Aimed at developing gross and fine motor skills to build strength and stability, and visual perception skills to discriminate between different letter shapes. (All lower case letters are shown using a printed style.)

### Forming letter families

Created to teach children sets of 'letter families' with the aim of securing the correct letter formation. (All lower case letters are shown using a printed style.)

### Positioning & pre-cursive

Targeted on the beginnings of joining with a focus on forming letters of the correct relative size, positioning and spacing. (Lower case letters are now shown in either a Twinkl Cursive or Continuous Cursive style with the horizontal and diagonal strokes needed to join letters.)

### Joining letters

Designed to develop pupils' understanding of different types of letter joins (and the letters best left unjoined) in an aim to increase legibility, quality and consistency. (Lower case letters are now shown consistently joined in either a Twinkl Cursive or Continuous Cursive style.)

### Increasing fluency, speed & style

Designed to develop pupils' understanding of different types of letter joins (and the letters best left unjoined) in an aim to increase legibility, quality and consistency. (Lower case letters are now shown consistently joined in either a Twinkl Cursive or Continuous Cursive style.)

### Twinkl Tip!

As a teacher, you could decide that most pupils are on the same step and focus on teaching in this area. Alternatively, you might teach a mixture of steps to cover the range of abilities within your class.

# Handwriting joins

Simple to follow and easy to teach.

## The journey to cursive

Within Step 4 and beyond, the Twinkl Journey to Cursive programme focuses on the two main basic joins included within the 2014 National Curriculum: diagonal joins and horizontal joins.

<b>Diagonal joins</b> (the most common letter join - formed from the baseline)	<b>used to join:</b> a, b, c, d, e, h, i, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, u, z	<b>to these letters:</b> b, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, u, v, w, x, y, z	<b>and to these tricky letters</b> (where the letter is formed in an anticlockwise movement): a, c, d, g, o, q, s
<b>Horizontal joins</b> (formed from the top of the letter)	<b>used to join:</b> o, r, v, w	<b>to these letters:</b> b, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, u, v, w, x, y, z	<b>and to these tricky letters</b> (where the letter is formed in an anticlockwise movement): a, c, d, g, o, q, s
<b>Descender joins</b> (formed from the loop of a descender)	f, g, j, q, x, y		

## The journey to continuous cursive

Correspondingly, the Twinkl Journey to Continuous Cursive materials also focus on the teaching of joining from Step 4 of the programme.

<b>Diagonal joins</b> (the most common letter join - formed from the baseline)	<b>used to join:</b> a, b, c, d, e, h, i, k, l, m, n, p, q, s, t, u, x, z	<b>to these letters:</b> b, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, u, v, w, x, y, z	<b>and to these tricky letters</b> (where the letter is formed in an anticlockwise movement): a, c, d, g, o, q, s
<b>Horizontal joins</b> (formed from the top of the letter)	<b>used to join:</b> o, r, v, w	<b>to these letters:</b> b, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, u, v, w, x, y, z	<b>and to these tricky letters</b> (where the letter is formed in an anticlockwise movement): a, c, d, g, o, q, s
<b>Descender joins</b> (formed from the loop of a descender)	<b>used to join:</b> f, g, j, y	<b>to these letters:</b> b, e, f, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, u, v, w, x, y, z	<b>and to these tricky letters</b> (where the letter is formed in an anticlockwise movement): a, c, d, g, o, q, s

# Letter families

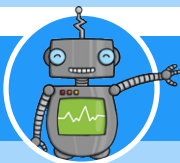
Engaging, fun and visual learning.

## The ladder family (l, i, u, t, y, j)



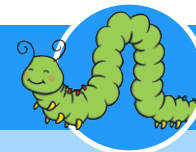
- l** down from the top
- i** down, lift and dot
- u** down, round, up and down
- t** down from the top, curve, lift and across
- y** down, round, up, down and round
- j** down to the bottom, around, lift and dot

## The one-armed robot family (n, m, h, k, b, p, r)



- n** down and up, around, down and stop
- m** down and up, around, down and up around, down
- h** down from the top, up, around and down
- k** down from the top, up and right round, kick
- b** down from the top, and around
- p** down from the top, up and around
- r** down, up, around and stop

## The curly caterpillar family (c, a, d, e, s, g, f, q, o)



- c** curve around and stop
- a** curve around, up and down
- d** curve around, up to the top and down
- e** up and diagonal across, curve round and stop
- s** curve around, curve around
- g** curve around, up, down to the bottom and around
- q** curve, down and cross
- o** curve around, up, down to the bottom and flick
- f** curve around and up around

## The zigzag monster family (z, v, w, x)



- z** across, diagonal down, across
- v** diagonal down, diagonal up
- w** diagonal down, diagonal up, diagonal down and diagonal up
- x** diagonal down, lift, diagonal down

# Capital letter families

A helping hand at every stage.

Capital letters are all formed at the same height and they're not joined to other letters. Although this means the order of the strokes is not as important as when lower case letters are formed, we've still provided some handy formation suggestions.



Twinkl Handwriting: The Capital Letter 'S' EYFS/KS1 Activity Pack

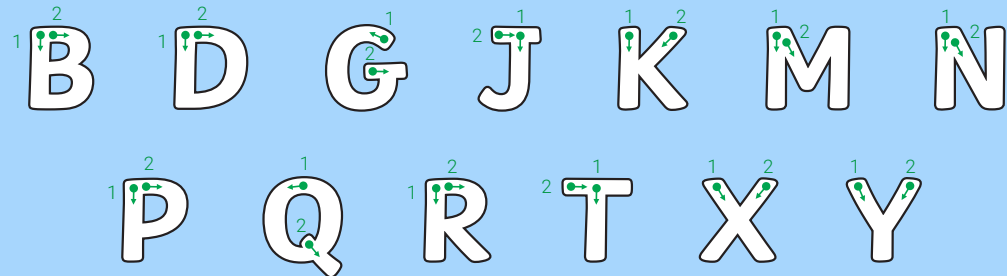
## Twinkl Tip!

It's important to remember that left-handed children will probably form the capital letters E, F, H, I, J and T differently.

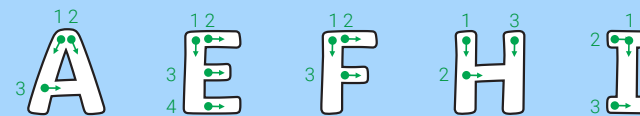
### Capitals without lifting (C, L, O, S, U, V, W, Z)



### Capitals with one lift (B, D, G, J, K, M, N, P, Q, R, T, X, Y)



### Capitals with two or more lifts (A, E, F, H, I)





# KS1 National curriculum links

Your essential at-a-glance guides for all year groups.

## Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Handwriting requires frequent and discrete, direct teaching. Pupils should be able to form letters correctly and confidently. The size of the writing implement (pencil, pen) should not be too large for a young pupil's hand. Whatever is being used should allow the pupil to hold it easily and correctly so that bad habits are avoided. Left-handed pupils should receive specific teaching to meet their needs.

Pupils should revise and practise correct letter formation frequently. They should be taught to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation.

## Statutory requirements

### Pupils should be taught to:

- sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- form capital letters.
- form digits 0-9.
- understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and practise to these.

## Statutory requirements

### Pupils should be taught to:

- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another.
- start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters.
- use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

# KS2 National curriculum links

Your essential at-a-glance guides for all year groups.

## Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing. Handwriting should continue to be taught, with the aim of increasing the fluency with which pupils are able to write down what they want to say. This, in turn, will support their composition and spelling.

Pupils should continue to practise handwriting and be encouraged to increase the speed of it, so that problems with forming letters do not get in the way of their writing down what they want to say. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes or a final handwritten version.

They should also be taught to use an unjoined style, for example, for labelling a diagram or data, writing an email address, or for algebra and capital letters, for example, for filling in a form.

## Statutory requirements

### Pupils should be taught to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.

## Statutory requirements

### Pupils should be taught to:

write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:

- choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters.
- choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

# Created by teachers

Meet our experienced team.



## **Becky**

With 15 years' teaching experience throughout KS2, Becky has a passion for all things SPaG! Her mission is to create innovative and useful resources in an aim to cut down the average teacher's impossible workload.



## **Bethan**

Bethan is an experienced teacher of 14 years, and has taught from Reception to Year 6 in schools in both the West Midlands and Devon. She is passionate about finding creative ways to support children's learning.



## **Victoria**

Vic was Head of KS1, led English and Phonics and has an MA in Action Research for Education. She uses her experience of teaching across KS1 and KS2 to resources which grip and inspire pupils by linking their learning to relevant and real experiences.



## **Gemma**

With 13 years' experience as a primary teacher, Gemma has led science, design and technology and Healthy Schools. She has a passion for igniting learning through a hands-on approach.



## **Jemma**

An experienced SEN teacher and SENCo for 5-13 year olds, Jemma has an MA Diploma in SEN and expertise in geography, English and PSHE. She loves visual resources and sign language.



## **Bev**

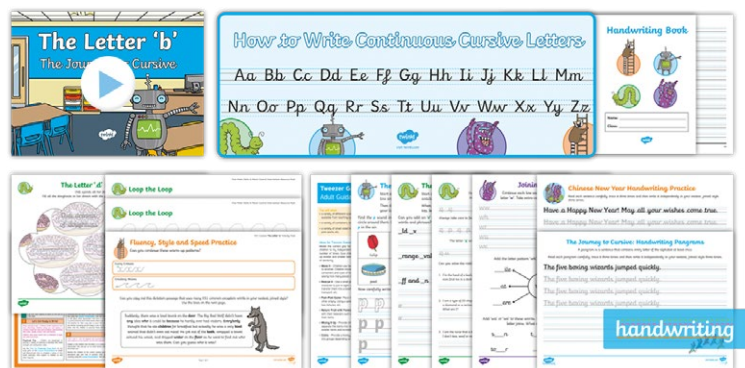
With 12 years' experience as a primary school teacher, and also a qualified SENCo, Beverley loved being as creative as possible in the classroom with the aim of bringing learning to life for children of all abilities.

# See for yourself

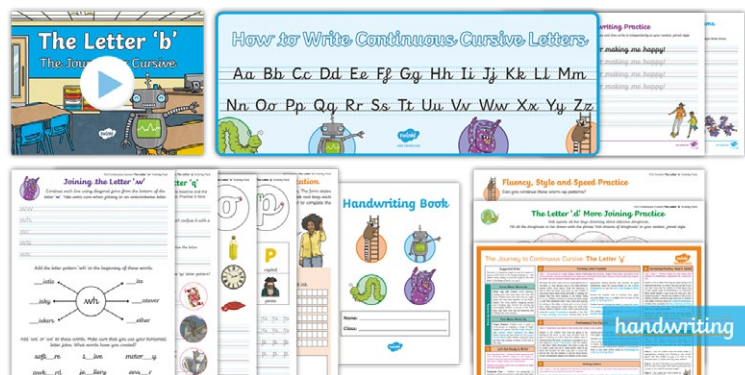
Discover the benefits - try it today!

Whet your appetite with **FREE Twinkl Handwriting taster packs.**

EYFS/KS1 Twinkl Handwriting Taster Resource Pack



KS2 Twinkl Handwriting Taster Resource Pack



**twinkl**  
**handwriting**

Explore **Twinkl Handwriting** >

Subscribe **Today** >



A clear structure for  
rapid handwriting progress

