

## Handwriting Classroom Activities/Strategies

Focus on kinaesthetic, touch and sensory inputs

- **Bubble wrap sleeves**

Write an A4 sized letter on cardboard, slip it inside a bubble wrap sleeve and get children to trace over the letter with their index finger. Similarly, you can use a clear bathmat.

- **Carpet writing**

Children write the letters on the carpet with their eyes closed and an open hand.

In pairs they write the letters on a partner's back and the child in front then writes the letter on paper/whiteboard/chalkboard.

- **Shaving cream**

Spread shaving cream to cover a paper plate. Children practice writing the letters being learnt in the shaving cream.

- **Corrugated cardboard**

Using an easel, children write letters on the corrugated cardboard using their fingernails.

Children can also write letters on a flat surface with their paper held by a bulldog clip against a sheet of corrugated cardboard both with their eyes open and closed.

- **Letter Dice**

Make a dice with the letters from the movement group being learnt written on each side. Children can roll the dice and write the letter they roll. They may have to write a line, write it on the whiteboard, on the chalk board, in the air and so on.

- **Egg timer/stopwatch/oven timer**

Children have the challenge of writing as many of the letters as they can using the right formation.

- **Rice writing**

Line a tray with foil and cover the bottom with rice. Children write the letters in the rice.

- **Playdoh**

Roll out a square of playdoh. Make the letters by pressing marbles into the playdoh starting at the starting point of the letter.

- **Magnets**

Take a piece of cardboard and write a large A4 letter shape. Put a star at the starting point for writing the letter. Place one magnet on the top and one underneath. Have the child control the bottom magnet to trace the top one over the letter.

- **I wonder game**

This is a game played in pairs. One child says...

*I wonder what my letter is*

*I wonder if you know*

*My letter goes (they take the other child's hand reaching through under the child's arm from behind and they draw the letter shape in the air) saying the verbal cues (for example, down and a jump (n))*

*Hello, hello, hello*

- **Wiki Stix**

Children use the wiki stix to make the letters and trace them with their fingers

Children can then place a piece of paper on top of the wiki stix and make a rubbing of the letter they have made.

- **Textured letters**

Using sandpaper, make A4 size letter shapes for children to trace over.

- **Stencils**

On the computer create A5 size letters. Cut them out in such a way as to make a stencil of that letter. Students then can find 5-10 different textures to trace them on using their hand, for example, carpet, trees, grass, wood

- **Interactive Whiteboard**

Children write letters they have learnt using the correct formation on the whiteboard. Make them big!

- **Rainbow Writing**

Children write the letter as big as they can on a chalkboard and trace over it in as many different colours as they can. Thick chalk is best and the concrete outside also works well.

- **Gloves**

Children wear gloves whilst writing their letters using the correct formation, for example, fingerless gloves, spa gloves, spiky gloves.

- **Finger Puppets**

Use finger puppets to have students draw letters in the air. You can even use different characters to have children drawing different letters in turn or simultaneously. For example, can the Mr Pigs draw the letter d, can the Miss Frogs draw the letter n and so on.

- **Changeable markers/ overwriters**

Write the letter in colour for students and they can overwrite it to change the colours. So that students have a good model letter, the teacher can write and they trace.

Another way to use these is to write the letters and the children have to colour it to reveal the letters. When they find a letter they must practice it before they can find a new one.

- **Fish**

Make a range of fish from wettext and write a letter being learnt on each fish. One child can come out and catch the fish using a pair of tongs and the rest of the group must write a row in their books, on white boards and so on.

- **Torches**

Children use torches to write the letters on walls, ceilings and so on. Great fun!

- **Air**

Letters are drawn in the air as large as possible.

Write them with an open hand

Write them using a pencil in hand

Use streamers or ribbons in the hand or around the wrist to increase visual cues

For children having difficulty, use an aerobic weight around the wrist or have them hold something heavy in their hand as they write in the air in order to increase feedback (for example, a full 600ml water bottle).

- **Music**

Use a song that has a strong beat throughout. Have children draw top to bottom lines and patterns to the beat with their hand in the air. This is great for practising fluency patterns.

Complete this using an open hand, then index finger, with a pencil and then drawn on paper.