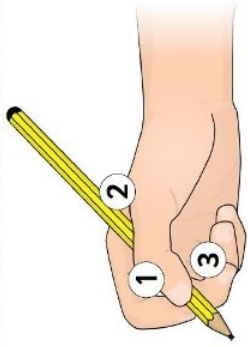
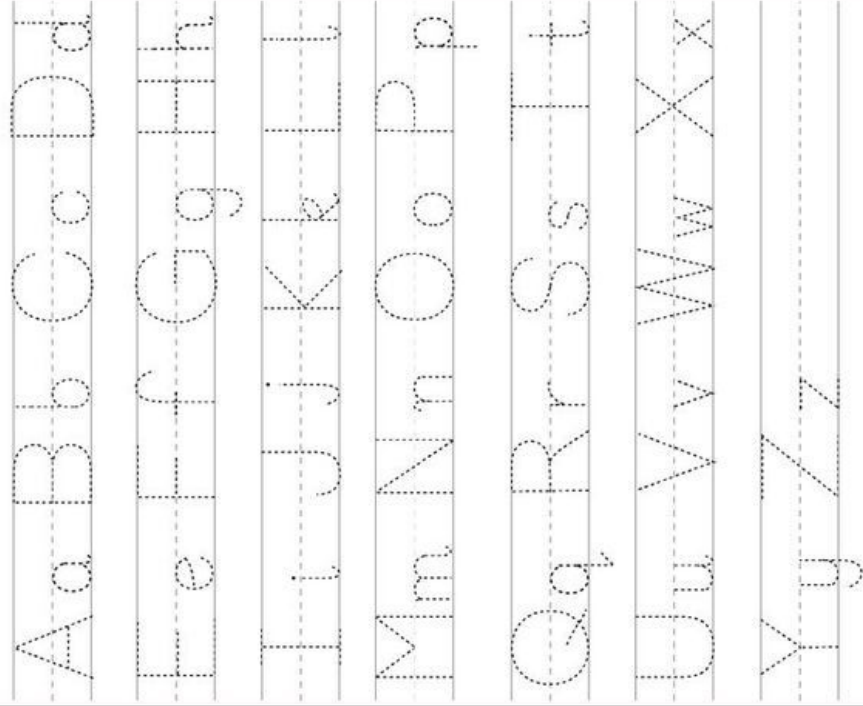


How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger just above the cone shaped part of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.

When teaching your child letter formation please make sure that you use the correct formation, direction and only use capital letters for the beginning of names.



How parents can support and promote children's writing skills at home

35 Uxbridge Road, Mellons Bay, Auckland.

Phone: 09 537 0399

Email: Uxbridgeearlylearning@xtra.co.nz



UXBRIDGE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Parents you can encourage children to develop their writing skills by:

- * Ensuring that there is a ready supply of pens, paper, pencils and crayons
- * Provide plenty of opportunities for children to practice their writing skills in a literacy rich environment
- * Providing opportunities for sensory play such as cooking, cleaning, playing with dough, sand, water, finger painting etc.
- * Encouraging your child to choose what he/she wants to write or draw about or an experience or a special event
- * Role modelling writing at home i.e. writing shopping lists, letters, stories, plays, recipes, etc.
- * Encouraging your child to read a word/phrase or part of a story that they are familiar with
- * Encouraging your child to recognise words on different print i.e. computer, books, papers, advertising, recipes, TV, etc.
- * Creating letters of the alphabet out of anything at home
- * Drawing and writing with your child
- * Writing stories under their drawings
- * Occasionally use their favourite story to point out left to right tracking of words
- * Display their work proudly
- * Responding enthusiastically to all their efforts
- * Reinforcing what they are able to do
- * Making signs/labels on objects around the house
- * Encouraging your child to use upper body and arm skills in their play such as with playing basketball, monkey bars, climbing, etc.
- * Understanding that children develop their interest in writing in their own time
- * Be aware that children work at their own speed

Important pre-writing skills for children to learn and develop:

- * To develop control of their fine motor (hand) skills
- * To develop their locomotive (upper arm/shoulder) skills
- * To develop their hand/eye co-ordination
- * To learn how to hold the pencil/pen correctly (pincer grip)
- * To take risks in attempting to write—initially marks on paper to letters
- * To develop skills in correct formation of lower/upper case letters
- * To continue to take risks in trying new letters and words
- * To learn sounds of letters
- * To develop confidence in their own ability
- * To develop body awareness and a sense of direction (left, right)
- * To learn to leave a space between words
- * To try and write the letters correctly (as per guidelines)
- * To start to write the high frequency words (as per reading list)
- * To recognise sounds within words
- * To know which way a book is held—and difference between back and front
- * To learn to use upper case letters only for the beginning of names

If your child is already mastering all of the above you can:

- * Encourage them to learn their— full name, address, telephone number, Mum and Dad's name, family/siblings names, places etc.
- * Start to write stories while sounding out the letters
- * Get them to write their own shopping lists
- * Write letters/cards to friends/family
- * Make their own party invitations etc.