

Handwriting

Tripod pencil grip

Here is some useful information about how to teach the tripod pencil grip (commonly recognised as the most effective way to hold a pencil).

1. Use a frog toy (or a picture of a frog) to show young learners the shape of the frog's bowed back legs.
2. Show children how to use their thumb and forefinger to create a shape which looks similar to the frog's back bendy legs.
3. Pinch the pencil, just above the cone end, and use the middle finger as a supporting 'log under'.
4. To make this skill child-friendly say, *Put your froggy legs (thumb and forefinger) on the bottom of the painted part of the pencil (not on the cone shaped end part), with the pencil across the frog's back (back of the hand), then put the log under the frog (middle finger supporting the pencil to complete the tripod grip).*
5. Emphasise the need for good sitting posture.
6. The 'writing hand' should rest lightly on the paper below the words being written, so that the words are not obscured.
7. The paper may be tilted slightly to the right (for right-handers) or to the left (for left-handers).
8. Use the frog toy or picture of a frog when you need to remind children about holding their pencil correctly.

Letter-formation scripts

In Reception, children should be taught the print formation of lower-case and capital letters, with clear start and finish points. The following letter formation scripts can be used to support the correct modelling to children.

Lower-case letters



I go up and over the hill from right to left. I curl around like a snake (which sits on a writing line).



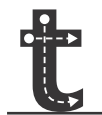
I start in the middle and go straight down through the writing line. Then I go straight back up to form a half bridge, which curves round to form a bowl (and sits on the writing line).



I go up and over the hill from right to left and curl around. I straighten up to catch the hook, then go straight down, and flick.



I start in the middle and go straight down to the line. Then I go straight back up to form a full bridge, then flick.



I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line and flick. I take my pencil off. I cross the stick from left to right (just above the half-way point).



I start in the middle and go straight down to the line. Then I go back up to form a full bridge, then another bridge, then flick.



I start in the middle, go straight down to the line and flick. Then I take my pencil off and put a little dot above the stick.



I go up and over the hill from right to left, and curl around. I straighten up to catch the hook, then keep going straight up (to just below the top writing line) to make a tall letter. Then I go straight back down (to the bottom writing line) and flick.

g

I go up and over the hill from right to left, and curl around. I straighten up to catch the hook, then go straight down through the writing line. I curl to make a tail below the writing line (from right to left).

o

I go up and over the hill from right to left, then curl right around to form a circle (which sits on the writing line).

c

I start in the middle and go up and over the hill from right to left, and curl around (to sit on the line).

k

I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I go back up (to half-height) to form half a bridge then turn it into a bow shape, like this.

e

I set off from left to right then sweep round, over the hill from right to left and curl around (to sit on the writing line).

u

I start in the middle and go straight down then curl to form a bowl sitting on the writing line. I go back up to half-height, then straight back down to the writing line and flick.

r

I start in the middle and go straight down to the line. I go back up to form a half bridge.

h

I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I go back up (to half-height) to form a full bridge, then flick.

b

I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I go back up (to half-height) to form half a bridge then curve to meet the bottom of the stick.

f

Starting tall, I go up and over the hill from right to left, then I go straight down through the writing line. I curl to make a tail below the writing line from right to left (like the /g/). I take my pencil off and draw a short straight line across.

l

I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom writing line, and flick.

j

I go straight down through the writing line. Then I curl to make a tail below the writing line from right to left (like the /g/ and /f/). Then I take my pencil off and put a little dot above the stick.

v

I start in the middle and form a single zigzag which sits on the writing line.

w

I start in the middle and form a double zigzag which sits on the writing line.

x

I form a diagonal line similar to the first line of the /v/. I take my pencil off and start on the bottom writing line to form a diagonal up to half-height which crosses the first line.

y

I go straight down and curl to form a bowl sitting on the writing line. I go back up to half-height, then straight back down through the writing line. Then I curl to make a tail below the writing line from right to left.

z

I start in the middle and form a short straight line across from left to right. Then I form a diagonal line back down to the line. Then, I form another short straight line across from left to right (which is along the bottom writing line).

q

I go up and over the hill from right to left, and curl around. I straighten up to catch the hook, then go straight down through the writing line. I kick back at the bottom with a short diagonal tail.

Capital letters

All capital letters are tall and sit on the writing line.



I go up and over the hill from right to left. I curl around like a snake (which sits on a writing line).



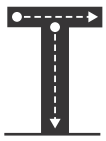
I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line. I lift my pencil off, start at the top and form a curve down to the writing line.



I start at the top and draw a diagonal line down to the left. I lift my pencil off, go back to the top and draw a diagonal line down to the right. Then I lift my pencil off and draw a straight line from left to right.



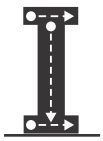
I go up and over the hill from right to left, then curl right around (to sit on the writing line). I bend around and go a little way up, then finish off with a short straight line across from left to right.



I start at the top and draw a straight line from left to right. I find the middle of the line and draw a line straight down (to the writing line).



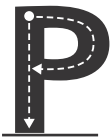
I go up and over the hill from right to left, then curl right around to form a circle (which sits on the writing line).



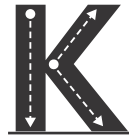
I start at the top and draw a short straight line from left to right. I take my pencil off, find the middle of the line, and draw a straight line down. I take my pencil off and draw a straight line from left to right.



I start at the top and go up and over the hill from right to left, and curl around (to sit on the line).



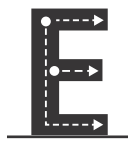
I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line. I lift my pencil off and start back at the top to form a loop from left to right which curls under and stops at the mid-point.



I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I lift my pen off, find the middle of the line and go out and up in a diagonal line. Then lift my pencil off, go back to the middle and go out and down in a diagonal line.



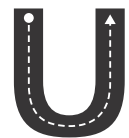
I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line. I lift my pencil off and draw a diagonal line down from left to right. I keep my pencil on the page and draw a line straight up to the top.



I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line, then go across from left to right in a straight line. Then I lift my pencil off and go across at the top in a straight line from left to right, and again in the middle with a shorter straight line from left to right.



I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line. I lift my pencil off, go back to the top and draw a zigzag down to the line and back up, then I draw a straight line down (back to the writing line).



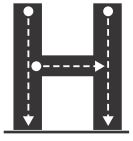
I start at the top and go straight down then curl to form a bowl sitting on the writing line.



I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I lift my pencil off, go back to the top and form a small loop back to the middle of the line. Then I draw a diagonal line to the writing line.



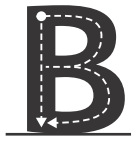
I start at the top and form a single zigzag which sits on the writing line.



I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I lift my pencil off, leave a gap and start again at the top to go straight down to the bottom line. Then I lift my pencil off and form a line across the middle from left to right.



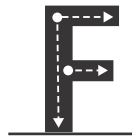
I start at the top and form a double zigzag which sits on the writing line.



I start at the top and go straight down to the bottom line. I lift my pencil off, start back at the top and form a loop to the mid-point and a loop to the bottom.



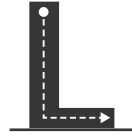
I form a diagonal line similar to the first line of the /v/. I take my pencil off and start on the bottom writing line to form a diagonal up to the top which crosses the first line.



I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line. Then I lift my pencil off and go across at the top in a straight line from left to right, and again in the middle with a shorter straight line from left to right.



I start at the top and form a diagonal down to the mid-point. I take my pencil off, leave a space and form another diagonal down from the top to the mid-point. Then I go straight down from the mid-point to the bottom writing line.



I start at the top and go straight down to the writing line, then go across in a straight line from left to right.



I start at the top and form a short straight line across from left to right. Then I form a diagonal line back down to the line. Then, I form another short straight line across from left to right (which is along the bottom writing line).



I start at the top and draw a line from left to right. I take my pencil off, find the middle of the line, then go straight down and curl around from right to left to form a tail that sits on the writing line.



I go up and over the hill from right to left, then curl right around to form a circle (which sits on the writing line). Then I lift my pen off and form a short straight diagonal line through the bottom right of the circle.