

TWO MINUTE TOOLBOX



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HANDWRITING

Top Tips for Handwriting

Fluent and legible cursive writing is our long term goal, however there are many stages which underpin this vital skill and unfortunately no short cuts available to bypass them.



First, your child needs to have individual finger control. This means that they must be able to move each finger separately, without moving the others. Can your child place their hands flat on the table, and lift just one finger at a time, leaving the others flat on the table? Can they do this with both hands?

Activities to help: squeezing a peg between thumb and each opposing finger in turn (both hands), sewing, using tweezers, weaving and manipulating small objects.



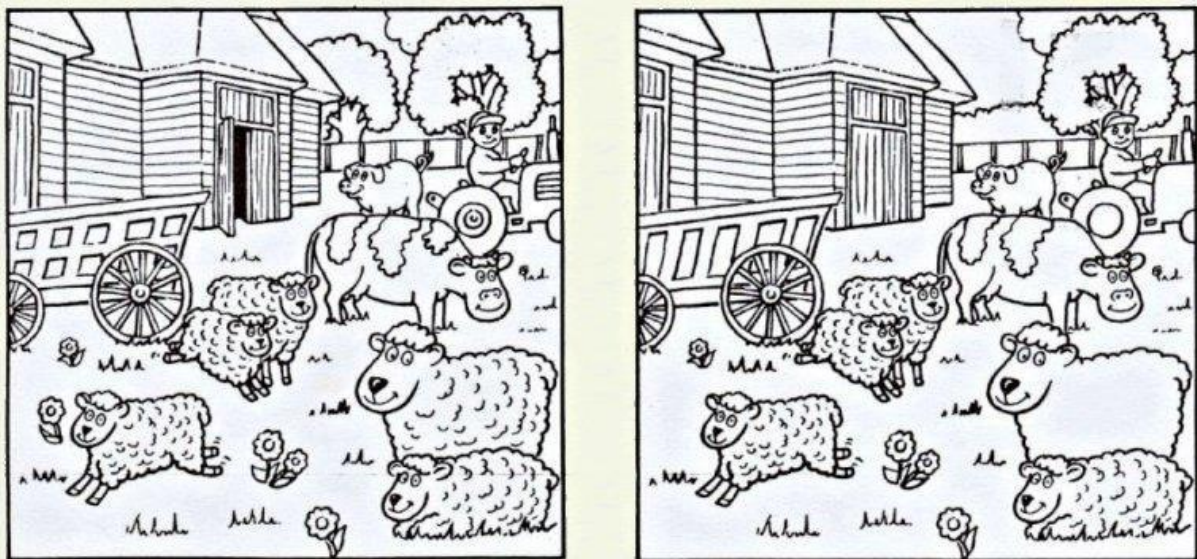
Next, your child needs to have small muscle strength and stamina. Writing hurts to begin with, so we need to prepare.

Activities to help: climbing, swinging, digging, cooking, ball skills, gardening and any physical activity which strengthens core trunk, arm and hand muscles.



Then, your child needs to be able to form each letter correctly. This requires systematic instruction, but good visuo-spatial skills are a prerequisite. This means that your child needs a good understanding of position and direction, similarities and differences.

Activities to help: manipulating small jigsaw puzzle pieces, sorting shapes and 'spot the difference' games.



This is a very slow process. Please be patient. If your child can't draw recognisable shapes, or people with detailed features, they probably still need to work on underlying skills. If you would like to attend a writing workshop, where we will model handwriting and tips for learning spellings, please see one of us and we will be happy to arrange it.