

Chapter 5

Refining handwriting

Introduction

This chapter focuses on refining handwriting and developing an individual style. People use different styles and sizes of handwriting for different purposes. Developing appropriate styles for the purpose and audience is key to this chapter. You can encourage children to experiment with:

- An italic style
- A note-taking style
- A speedy style
- Their best style (for display work, thank-you letters and so on)
- Other styles, such as a more rounded loop on 'y' and 'g' when joining or using different letter forms.

As part of developing an individual style, the children are also encouraged to experiment with the size of their writing, making it bigger or smaller by:

- Working on different-sized guidelines.
- Working on a range of different tasks, for example some things might require bigger writing rather than smaller writing.

Pangrams are also used (sentences that use every letter of the alphabet at least once). Time the children to see how long they take and then analyse the writing. Look for errors such as formation, size of overall writing and individual letter sizes (head, body, tail), slant and incorrect joins. Then repeat, trying to do it in a faster time with fewer errors. The aim is to build up speed but not let legibility disappear. High-frequency words can also provide practice for speed.

Punctuation is also looked at specifically within

this chapter. Finally, a writing task section brings together all the handwriting knowledge the children have learned in order to complete an extended piece of writing.

In this chapter

Changing the size page 108	To practise handwriting using different sizes of script.
Developing your own style page 112	To explore different styles of handwriting and develop an individual style.
Punctuation page 116	To practise using accurate punctuation.
Practising speed page 120	To practise writing quickly, fluently and legibly.
Writing tasks page 124	To practise handwriting for different purposes.