

Next steps



- Once your child can write some letters, they could practise writing their name.
- Can they hear the different sounds (phonics) in a word like **pen**: p - e - n and try writing down the letters?
- Try other simple words like **cat** or **dog**.
- When you are writing something, ask them if they can help you.

For more information...

Sparklebox

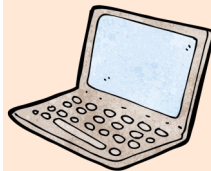
www.sparklebox.co.uk/literacy/writing/letter-formation/worksheets.html

Free downloadable worksheets



Videos

How to form the letters correctly:



Starting to put the letter sounds (phonics) together:



Tips for parents and carers

Helping your child to write

It's important for your child to enjoy making marks and start to write.

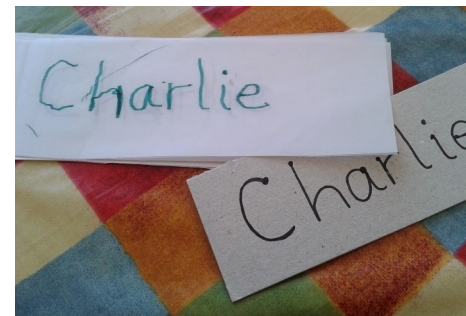
Children like to write for a purpose.

You're in the best position at home to help them do this. They could:

- Write a shopping list
- Make a sign for their room
- Write labels for a pretend shop



Remember children still need to develop their finger and hand muscles through activities like playdough, hanging out washing, threading beads. They need to practise in order to hold a pencil or pen.



Forming the letters

Encourage your child to practice writing letters, starting and finishing in the right place.



Ask your school how they teach the children to form the letters (this can vary from school to school).

It is a good idea for them to start writing **lower case (not capital) letters** and to write from **left to right**.

They could try making the letter shapes...

- out of plasticine
- on flour in a tray
- with shaving foam on the table
- with chalk on a blackboard or on paving stones
- In the air with their finger or with a pretend wand.



Then they could try with a pencil or crayon or felt tip pen on cardboard, paper, old wallpaper or paper tablecloths.

To prepare for letter shapes, **practice drawing circle shapes anti-clockwise**, and **lines top to bottom** and across the page **left to right**.



Writing letters and words

Help your child to write a shopping list with just the initial letters of the words:



With your child, label things around the house with their initial letter sound or their name.

Now muddle up the labels and see if your child can put them in the right place.

What do you want to put on the shopping list?

Bananas

What is the sound that bananas starts with?

b

Can you try writing a "b"?

Encourage them to hold their pencil or crayon like this.

They may be left handed or right handed – it doesn't matter which hand they prefer.



When they start writing, children will often write back to front or in very big letters or in the wrong order.

It doesn't matter if they make mistakes!

Encourage them and praise them anyway.

The important thing is that they are enjoying practising making different shapes and feel good about it.



Add other things to the list, just writing the initial letter.

Can they have a go at writing a whole word?