



Tips and Tricks to help your child's learning journey

1. Warm Up!

Before any physical activity we should always warm up, and it's the same with writing!

Here are some ways that you can warm up your hands to make writing easier:

- Play an 'air piano' for a few seconds.
- Put the **little finger tip** to the **thumb tip** and **rapidly tap 5 times**, using both hands.
- **Repeat** finger **tapping exercise** with the other fingers.
- Grasp right wrist with left hand and **gently yank** the arm **10 times**.
- **Swap** hands and **repeat**.



2. Tripod Grip!

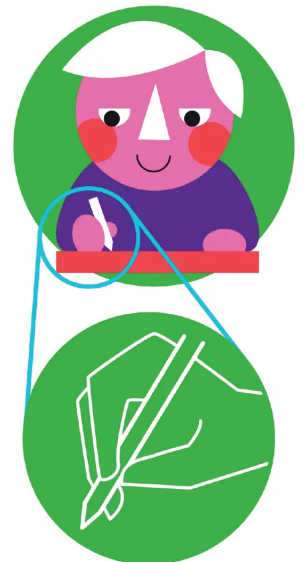
Teaching your child to develop a good tripod grip will be vital in your child's writing journey!

The correct tripod grip on a pencil allows the hand the largest range of movement, whilst using as little exertion as possible.

An exercise to encourage your child to use the tripod grip:

- **Lay** the pencil on the table with the **tip pointing towards** your child.
- Get them to **pinch the pencil** in between **thumb** and **index finger**.
- When they **lift** the pencil let it **fall back** into the web space while still **holding it firmly**.
- **Tuck** their **middle finger** under the pencil so it **rests firmly** ready for writing (and drawing).

This grip will help your child develop their pencil skills and increase their fluidity of movement.



3. Develop Finger-Thumb opposition!

Thumb Opposition refers to the ability to turn and rotate the thumb so that it can touch each fingertip of the same hand.

Activities to help include:

- **Catching, throwing** and **squeezing** rubber balls and tennis balls.
- **Squeezing** large sponges to wring out the water is **great for strengthening** the hands.
- **Placing discs** in narrow slots; so a **coin into a piggy bank** is perfect or a game of **Connect Four**.
- **Spinning tops, Jenga, wind up toys, tiddlywinks games, buttoning, linking chains, stringing beads and peeling stamps and stickers** are also fun activities that really help.

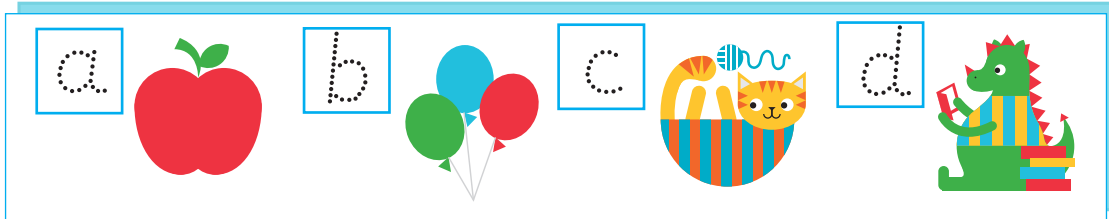
This allows children to grasp objects.



4. Encourage Scribbling!

Allowing young children to scribble when they can hold pencils and crayons will allow them to see things appear on paper because of their hands. This will excite them and encourage them to carry on scribbling, as well as promoting creativity.

These scribbles will slowly turn into letters over time.



5. Provide an Alphabet Chart!

Having an Alphabet Chart can help your child memorise letters.

A **fun activity** to do with your child would be to print out an **alphabet chart**, and keep this close by while they are writing.

An **alphabet chart** of **worksheets** that they can **colour in** themselves will be even more beneficial.

This will help them to memorise the letters they are using, and remember the shapes of the letters.

6. Get your child to help you write a shopping list

Showing your child real life examples of writing can aid them in their learning.

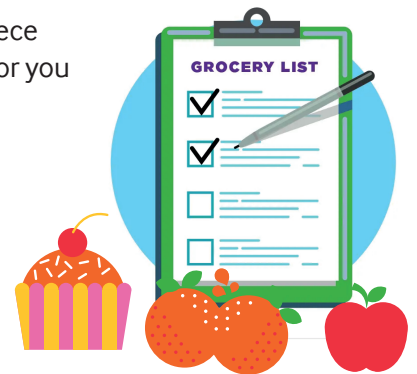
Instead of writing a list on your phone, get your child to help you write one onto a piece of paper. This can also help their reading skills because you can ask them to read it for you when you get to the supermarket.

Make sure your child sees you writing

Children will learn about writing by watching you write, and you can help by talking with about what you are writing about and why, so that they begin to understand writing is important and the many ways writing helps at home and work.



eggs
bread
milk
sugar

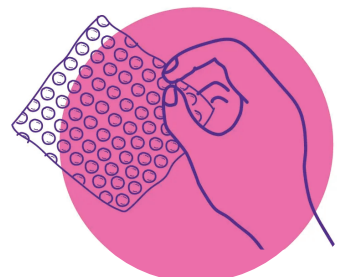


7. Popping bubble wrap!

Did you know popping bubble wrap can help your child to build grip and maintain steady control of a pencil? Use the three tripod fingers to pop the bubbles to help build these skills!

The bigger the bubbles the better!

Popping bubble wrap helps build grip





Writing is an important part of our lives; however, it also can be a stressful skill to learn for young children. By helping your child learn to enjoy this task with a few simple activities, you can help your child begin to develop their writing skills at an early age.

Help to improve your child's writing skill and make it fun.

Encourage your child to write everyday lists and cards

Give your child opportunities to practice writing by helping them sign or write our birthday cards, thank you cards and write short stories about what they have done in school, and make lists together such as such as writing a shopping list or a recipe.



Use pencils/pens that fit their hands correctly

Teaching young children to learn to write can be a stressful but rewarding task and giving a child the right writing tools to inspire a love of writing is an important step in their learning to write journey.

Developmentally, your 2 to 4 year old's hands will struggle to hold something thin like an adult's pencil. Using adult sized pencils is a recipe for disaster for your child, who is likely to get frustrated and give up. Love Writing Co. have a range of age appropriate writing pencils and crayons designed to fit a child's hands plus they are all suitable for left and right handed children.



See www.lovewritingco.com

Make a day out even more fun by taking notes.

Encourage your child to take notes on days out and describe what they saw and what they enjoyed about the day. You could have a day out in the park, zoo or just a nature walk. Ask them to include a description of the nature walk or even a car trip maybe even ask them to write about an adventure they want to take with you.



Use a family message board to write notes with your child and make sure you leave notes for them too.

Encourage Song Writing and Lyrics Writing

Does your child enjoy singing or likes a particular song, suggest that they learn the words by writing them down so they can remember the words easily. Encourage them to copy favourite poems or quotations from books and plays which is another fun way too get children to be creative and have fun.



Write Stories with your child

Explain what benefits learning to write can offer to your child, for example: writing their own exciting stories, communicating with loved ones, and gaining a skill that can be used and developed for life! Additionally, potentially helping find what they like to do in the future becoming an author, poetry and overall knowing writing is a skill that is a big part throughout your child's education.



Introduce an incentive

A small reward may be just what is needed to encourage your child to write. Maybe suggest your child keep a personal diary, or write a story, and if they complete this, at the end of the week they could be rewarded with their favourite sweets, or a movie night watching their favourite film. Alternate options are reward stickers which children just love, and all our Handwriting Practice Books have 35 reward stickers to incentivise little writers.



Help your child write letters and emails to relatives and friends

Writing a thank you note or just a special note to say hi to their grandparents or favourite cousin is so special and be sure to send your child a letter or card too, so they are reminded of how special it is to get a letter in the mail.

Love Writing Co. have a range of Traceable Thank You and Birthday Cards children can personalise.



Encourage keeping a journal

This is excellent writing practice as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school, about people they like or dislikes and why, and about things they want to remember and do. Children need to express what they feel so an journal is a great way express themselves all through a diary or journal.

Use Free worksheets

Worksheets are a fun way for children to practice their writing skills and to enjoy themselves. Worksheets can make a difficult task such as writing seem much easier and less intimidating because they allow children to be creative at the same time.

Love Writing Co. have many free downloadable worksheets available for you to print at home. Hopefully all of these tricks will help to make your life a little easier and check out our fun writing resources at:



www.lovewritingco.com

Happy Writing

Love Writing Co. Team