



Below are some ideas for helping your child to become a writer.

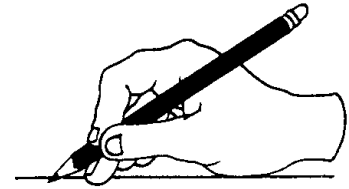
**Where should you start?**

It is very important that your child holds a pencil properly before you start, (tripod grip). The thumb and first finger hold the pencil and it rests on the third finger.







The pencil grip should be comfortable and the pencil move up and down with 'froggy fingers'.

Before your child can learn to write letters they must learn to control a pencil and form the shapes they want, so don't try to teach your child to write letters until they have had lots of drawing experience.

Children also love to draw patterns so include these in activities you do at home!



Some examples of patterns might include:

	straight lines going down, starting at the top
	lines on a slant, starting at the top
	horizontal lines, starting on the left
	zig zag lines
	circles
	hoops

Let your child **see you writing** so that they begin to understand that:

- ❖ Talk can be written down and that writing can be a few words on a scrap of paper; a telephone message, a shopping list - not just long sentences in a book
- ❖ That writing goes from left to right
- ❖ That letters stand for different sounds and that the same letters come in different words 'Look that's like in my name!'
- ❖ That there are big and little letters! (capitals and lower case)

Only use a capital letter for the start of their name and then lower case letters for the rest of their name This is the letter formation we teach the children at school, it is known as a 'pre-cursive font'.

A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h
I i	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n	O o	P p
Q q	R r	S s	T t	U u	V v	W w	X x
Y y	Z z	Please note - some lower case letters need flicks.					

