

Becoming a Writer

In January 2018 we held three 'Writing Workshops' for parents. The aim of the workshops was to inform parents about the stages a child goes through on their journey to becoming a writer and ways that parents could support at home to enhance these skills.

Please refer to the document 'Writing - a Physical Process' in our Curriculum section under 'Literacy'. You will find lots of other useful suggestions in this section as well!

This is some of the positive feedback we received.

I found the workshop very interesting. E is not quite at the pincer grip stage, so I found it fascinating to see what stage she is at and what to expect next.

We have done lots of name writing and she enjoys putting an 'E' everywhere – in the condensation on car windows, in sand, on paper. I got lots of ideas from the workshop.

She has really enjoyed pegging pom-poms and using the paintbrushes outside with water or on her aqua mat. We are creating as many opportunities as possible!

Very interesting workshop. I have learnt how to support my child with early writing and gained lots of ideas and tips about how I can help N to develop her motor skills.

We have had lots of fun with the items in the goody bag, especially with the ribbons attached to the straw.

After the workshop we played with cornflour for the first time and N loves it!

Also, she likes to write her name tracing over a yellow felt tip pen.

Every day we are trying new ideas to help N become a writer.

Thank you for running this course and for the lovely goody bag! The main bit of advice that I have come away with is that I need to relax. I have spent many an hour with P trying to get her to trace letters and hold pens correctly with no joy whatsoever. I know realise she just isn't ready. My time is much better spent enjoying mark making activities and just instilling a sense of fun and joy when being creative so that when the time comes she is confident and believes in her own ability. We have had a great time painting the trees and fences at home (with water), dancing with ribbons. We have invented a pom-pom spoon game (the peg was a bit hard just yet!) P is very proud of her 'shopping list' noted book! It has been lovely to do activities with both girls even though they are at different stages. To them it is just fun! I hope you like the pictures!



The goody bag inspired us to think about writing opportunities at home, such as using the post it notes to write invitations for parties and the notebook to make a shopping list.

The girls have always enjoyed mark making; it's just nice to have some new life injected into what we do! Thank you!

What a wonderful evening! You really helped my understanding of the physical stages our children need to go through before they can write.

Super, fun ideas for activities. Thank you so much for your guidance that helps us to give our children the best support.

The boys loved the goody bags! O wanted to write his 'O' for his name and he made a number line 😊

E also told me all about his numbers and the E which is for Mummy's name! Thank you.



The workshop was wonderful, filled with little, but very interesting ideas. My daughter loved the paint brush and colouring activity. The presentation was very practical, informative and useful. Mrs. Jackson is very inspiring, and I loved her presentation. Looking forward too many more of these kind of workshops in the future.

We used sponges to 'clean' the tiles during bath time, made lots of notes in the pad, put lots of A4 pieces of paper together and made a big picture with markers.

Thank you for lots of ideas; can't wait to put them all into practice.

A very good session and I took lots from it. I have already ordered some bath crayons and L and I have started to mark down the number of goals we score when we play football together. L has been developing his pincer grip by using the peg to pick things up.



Session was very useful and informative. The 'goodie bag' has had good use at home. C loved picking up all the cotton balls, writing little messages for her mummy and daddy in her little notepad. Not to forget about the brilliant sponge! She's helping mummy to clean cupboards and tables – great fun!

Not every parent knows that the beginning of writing is based on finger-arm'finger fun.

Mrs. Jackson delivered the presentation with her usual passion and enthusiasm. The workshop was particularly useful with practical tips and activities that we can try at home. N said 'Wow' when presented with the goodie bag. So far we have done ribbon dancing, used the scourer to do the washing up and we are looking forward to painting the fence. Thank you!

We have used our goodie bag quite a few times and have made a pen pot. We have been doing more 'Busy Finger' activities using the handouts to give us lots more ideas.

Found the workshop very informative and insightful. We found the tips and ideas useful to take away and put into practice at home.

We have used the items in the goodie bag, which were excellent tools to encourage gripping, fine motor skills and concentration.

We have also been using larger pieces of cardboard and paper to practice using all the muscles in the arm and more free flowing mark making.

**"WRITING
IS THE
PAINTING
OF THE
VOICE!"**
VOLTAIRE

We all absolutely loved doing examples from the workshop and the activities to develop fine motor skills! We practised finger rhymes, playdough (although looking forward to making our own rather than shop bought!). We picked up ice with spoons and even J's one-year old sister joined in (and daddy too!).

Paint brushes in water is fun and leaf rubbings raised a lot of interest and quiet time to concentrate. J liked the ribbon on the pencil. She hold a pencil well; I have noticed a big improvement in a short period of time. J can almost hold with a tripod grip and she enjoys painting and drawing.

We will practice letters in more depth as she gains skill and dexterity.

TODAY
*is the day to
learn something*
NEW

A message from Mrs. Jackson: Thank you for the wonderful feedback! It is very rewarding to know how useful parents and carers found the workshops and how much it helped them understand the important stages children must go through on the road to becoming a writer!

There are numerous resources on our website to support these ideas – follow these links:

 [Suggested activities to develop 'Fine Motor Skills'](http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/suggested-activities-to-develop-fine-motor-skills/)

<http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/suggested-activities-to-develop-fine-motor-skills/>

 [Supporting your child with letter formation](http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/supporting-your-child-with-letter-formation/)

<http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/supporting-your-child-with-letter-formation/>

 [Stages of Writing - Information for Parents](http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/stages-of-writing-information-for-parents/)

<http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/stages-of-writing-information-for-parents/>

 [Becoming a Writer](http://kingswood.herts.sch.uk/publication/view/becoming-a-writer/)

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