

Year One Handwriting Guidance

In Year One we use a printed letter formation, please see below:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y z

When we introduce the letters in formal handwriting sessions we teach them in families; these are groups of letters that contain similar traits.

Long Letters	Curly Letters	Down and Up Letters	Zig Zag Letters
l, i, t, u, j, y	c, a, o, d, g, q, e, s, f	r, b, n, h, m, k, p	v, w, x, z

ELS Mnemonics and Rhymes:

a – ant – around the head, down the body

b – bike – down the person and around the wheel

c – camel – curl around the camel's back

d – duck – over his back and around the tail, up his neck and down to his feet

e – elephant – around the head and down the trunk

f – fox – over the ear, down to the tail and across the jaw

g – goat – start at his ear, around the face and down the beard

h – heron – from his head to his feet, up and over his back

i – inventor – down her body, spot her idea

j – jellyfish – swoop down the tentacles and dot the head

k – kid – down the body, up the arm, down the leg
l – ladder – down the long ladder
m – meerkat – meerkat, mound, mound
n – nest – down the bird and over her nest
o – ostrich – around the ostrich's body
p – parrot – down his body, around his face
qu – quill – around the feather and down the pen
r – runner – down her body, up over the arm
s – snake – swerve around the snake
t – teacher – down her body and cross her shoulders
u – umbrella – under the umbrella and down to the tip
v – viper – down the tongue, up the tongue
w – wallaby – hop to the top, land and hop, land and hop
x – x x x – criss-cross the kiss
y – yacht – under the hull and down to the anchor
z – zigzag – zig and zag

Digraphs:

ck – a camel and a kid – the camel stood by the kid
ss – two snakes – sunbathing snakes
ff – two foxes – two foxes facing forwards
ll – two ladders – ladders in a line
zz – two zigzags – a zigzag duet