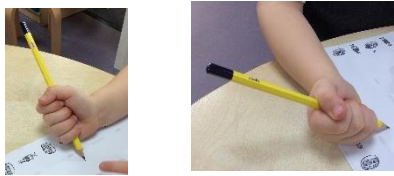

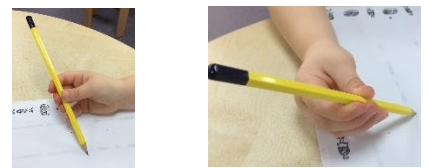

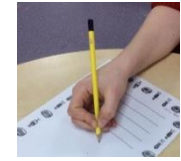


Caedmon Primary School
Writing Development

Pencil grip is developmental and children will generally work through 5 different developmental stages of holding their pencil before mastering the 'mature tripod pencil grip'. Most children will develop an effective pencil grip by mastering each different stage first.

Ages and Stages of Pencil Grip

Stages	Age	Description	Example
Stage 1 Fisted Grip	1-1½ years old.	The child will use movement from their shoulder for a whole-arm movement.	
Stage 2 Palmer Grip	Around 2-3 years old	The child will use whole-arm movements.	
Stage 3 Four Finger and Thumb Grip	Around 3-4 years old	The child will use a movement from the elbow and wrist.	
Stage 4 Static Tripod Grip	Around 3½-4 years old	The child will use movement from the wrist.	
Stage 5 Dynamic Tripod Grip	Around 4-6 years old	The child will use individual fingers.	

Teaching the Tripod Grip

- Lay the pencil on the table with the tip facing towards the child,
- Ask the child to make a pincer action with their pointer finger and thumb,
- Ask the child to pinch the pencil with their pincers
- Then ask the child to use their other hand to lay the pencil to bed.

Sitting and Mark Making

Children will also developmental work through the amount of time that they can 'sit still' and concentrate on an activity. When children move they are making connections in their brain from the part of the body that is moving. The more connections that they make the easier they will find it to develop and control their body movements.

Along with developing their pencil grip and sitting time, children will also developmental work through the different marks that they can make and the precision in which these marks can be made.

Age	Sitting	Mark Making	Patterns	Example
1-2 years	For meals	Scribble	N/A	
2-3 years	For short tasks	Scribbles imitates lines and circles	Non pencil related (see pre-writing tasks)	
3-4 years	For tasks	Scribbles imitates more defined lines and circles Assigns meaning to marks Recognisable pictures Symbolic Writing	Non pencil related (see pre-writing tasks) Straight Pattern Curved Pattern	
4-5 years	For up to 5 minutes	Name Symbolic Writing Emergent Writing Single letters	Straight Pattern Curved Pattern Tunnel Pattern Diagonal Pattern	
5 years	For up to 10-15 minutes	Name Emergent Writers Confident Writers Single letters Words	Curved Joined Tunnel Joined Diagonal Joined Join Pattern	

Continuous Provision

Along with adult direct activities and direct teaching, children also need the time to 'practise' and develop their pencil grip, sitting time and mark making independently, through the areas of continuous provision. These areas should be set up to ensure that children have the chance to develop key strengths needed for handwriting such as:

- Shoulder Stability & Strength
- Crossing the Mid-line
- Wrist Strength & Flexibility
- Thumb and Finger Strength & Dexterity
- Whole Hand Strength & Dexterity

The outdoor area plays a huge part in developing children's handwriting abilities. If children cannot control their large gross motor movements, they will struggle to control their fine motor movements. Therefore, children need daily access to the outdoor space, with the opportunity to run around, make large scale buildings, jump, dig, hide, crawl and have access to balls and other throwing and catching objects.

Adult Directed Activities and Direct Teaching

An activity plan (see planning file) has been created that both Nursery and Reception children will work through. These activity plans both contain opportunities for the children to work indoors and outdoors.

Resources to Support Pencil Grip (these should be placed into the Continuous Provision if possible)

- Screw lids on and off jars
- Assemble nuts and bolts
- Pushing cars or trains around a track laid on the floor
- Using tools such as a hammer or screwdriver
- Hanging up clothes or other objects
- Pouring or putting things in to different size containers
- Pick-up games using a finger pincer grip (usually needed to pick up smaller items)
- Ball skills, rolling or bowling with one hand (start with a larger ball moving to smaller)
- Lacing cards, sewing and bead stringing (start large then move to small)
- Cookie cutter in clay or dough
- Jigsaws
- Pencils- thin and chunky
- Crayons- thin and chunky

- Chalks
- Paints and painting brushes
- Buckets and brushes
- Buckets and spades
- Large construction materials to carry
- Small construction materials to stick
- Scissors
- Magazines
- Large blocks
- Small blocks
- Tweezers
- Turning book pages