



Handwriting and fine  
motor skills

# Overview

- Why we need to develop handwriting
- Benefits of a cursive style
- Teaching cursive from N-Y6
- Fine motor skills
- Handwriting in Sully – specifics
- Questions



# “But surely the future is typing?”

*Handwriting notes helps you process the information and studies have shown that university students who take notes by hand retain more information than those who type their notes. The act of ‘doing’ helps the brain remember.*



Fascinating new research points out the benefits of cursive writing for cognitive development. One [study](#) concluded that Primary students need at least "15 minutes of handwriting daily for cognitive, writing and motor skills and reading comprehension improvement." A recent article in [Psychology Today](#) cited research which shows that:

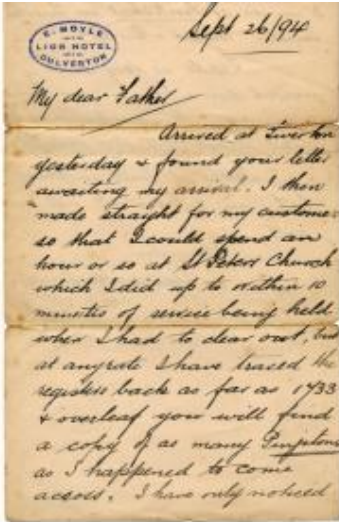
Students "wrote more words, faster, and expressed more ideas when writing essays by hand versus with a keyboard." This study included second, fourth, and sixth graders.

"Cursive writing helps train the brain to integrate visual (and) tactile information, and fine motor dexterity."

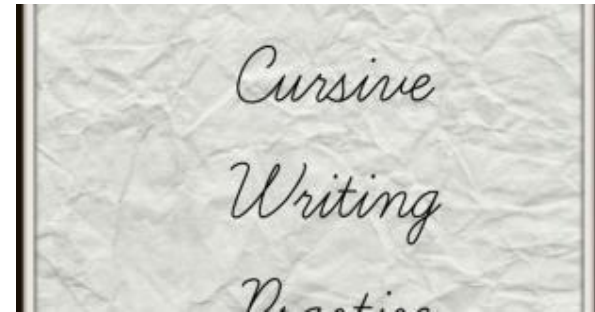
The regions of the brain that are activated during reading were "activated during hand writing, but not during typing."



# What is cursive writing?



Joined handwriting that flows easily, usually formed without taking the pen off the paper for each word.



# Benefits of a cursive style

Continuous cursive letters naturally join so children only have to learn their one font for lower case handwriting. Once they are secure in continuous letters they will naturally be able to join their handwriting.

Continuous cursive letters flow rhythmically from left to right, aiding speed and fluidity of the writing.

The starting and finishing points for all cursive letters are easier to remember, which can be especially helpful for children with specific difficulties.

The transition of joined writing is simple and occurs sooner, allowing children to concentrate on the composition of the writing, because they no longer have to think about how to form the letters.

It helps develop spelling skills because the hands develop a 'muscle memory' for words rather than just for individual letters. It's why we sometimes find it hard to remember how to spell a word when we are texting and have to write it on a piece of paper (or in the air) to check it!



*"Written language can be acquired more easily by children of four years than by those of six. While children of six usually need at least two years to learn how to write, children of four years learn this second language within a few months."*

—Maria Montessori

Observers of Montessori schools are often astonished by the beautiful cursive hand of four-and five-year-old children. Montessori noted that the straight and oblique lines of printing were more difficult for children to form than cursive. The uninterrupted movements of the hand may make cursive letters easier for children to form, and for this reason, some Montessori primary classrooms introduce children to cursive sandpaper letters first. Other Montessori schools wait to teach cursive to lower elementary students.

Some non-Montessori [reading experts](#) have begun teaching cursive before printing, because they find that cursive instruction improves literacy outcomes for many students and that "the connections between letters required in cursive writing may reduce letter reversals."



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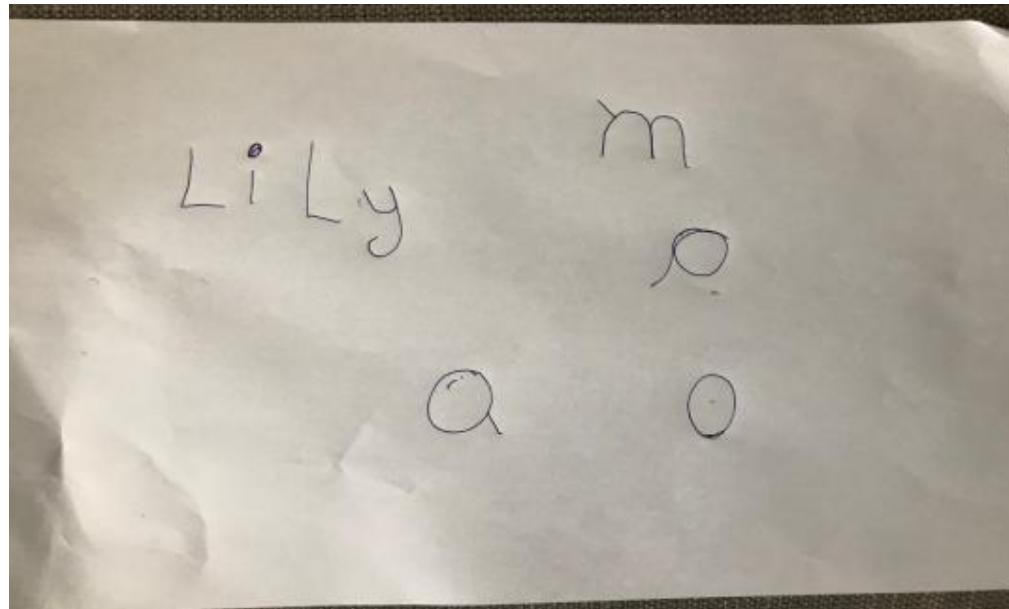
Make a playdough 'a'

SparkleBox





Some children may already know some letters when they start school, although many need to 're-learn' them anyway.



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# Read Write Inc

Your child will learn their phonic letters, how to read them and how to form them at the same time through the Read Write Inc scheme.



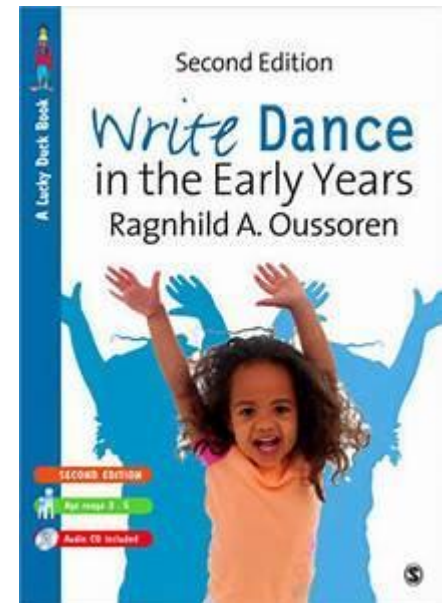
Up we go...around the apple and down the leaf  
... and off we go



# Fine and Gross Motor Skills

Before a child is able to form letters comfortably and confidently using the correct formation, they need to develop the coordination and strength in their muscles.

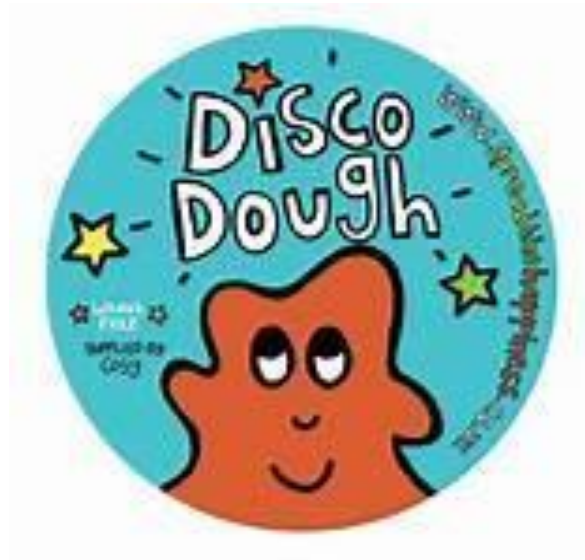
**Gross motor control** is the term used to describe the development of controlled movements of the whole body, or limbs (arms or legs). Of particular importance in relation to handwriting is the development of good posture and balance. Activities such as dance, football, use of small apparatus, cycling, gripping climbing frames and building with large-scale construction kits all develop gross motor control.





# Fine motor skills

**Fine motor control** is the term used to describe smaller movements, usually of the hand and fingers (or of the feet and toes for children who communicate using touch sensitive pads with their feet). Fine motor control is best developed through activities which involve small-scale movements.





# Handwriting in Sully

Tall letters stretch to the sky, short letters stay in the grass, and some letters dig underground!



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Please note that all lower case letters begin at the same point on the line and each letter has a carry-on stroke so that it can be joined. We do not join from capital letters.





# Tricky letters

I can write my name...



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