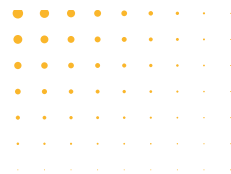




Handwriting for ALL:

Simple whole class strategies for BIG impact





Handwriting

is an essential skill that supports **literacy, communication and academic success.**

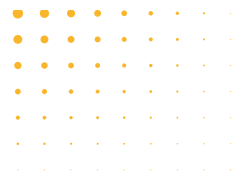
However, many students face challenges in development of handwriting skills due to various factors. Handwriting challenges are not unique to students with educational needs and can be observed in students who are neurotypical. With that said, students with educational needs tend to have more challenges with handwriting as compared to their peers.





By adopting a whole-class approach, educators can create an inclusive handwriting instruction that benefits ALL students while ensuring accessibility for those with specific needs.





Here are some strategies that you can adopt while teaching ANY subjects:



1 The “P”s of Handwriting

a. Posture – Ideal posture for handwriting

As an educator, some simple modifications that can occur would be placing a stool under the child’s feet or a shoe box/recycled A4 paper box.

Easy activity is to get all students to stand up, get in position as they seat and then start their writing activity.

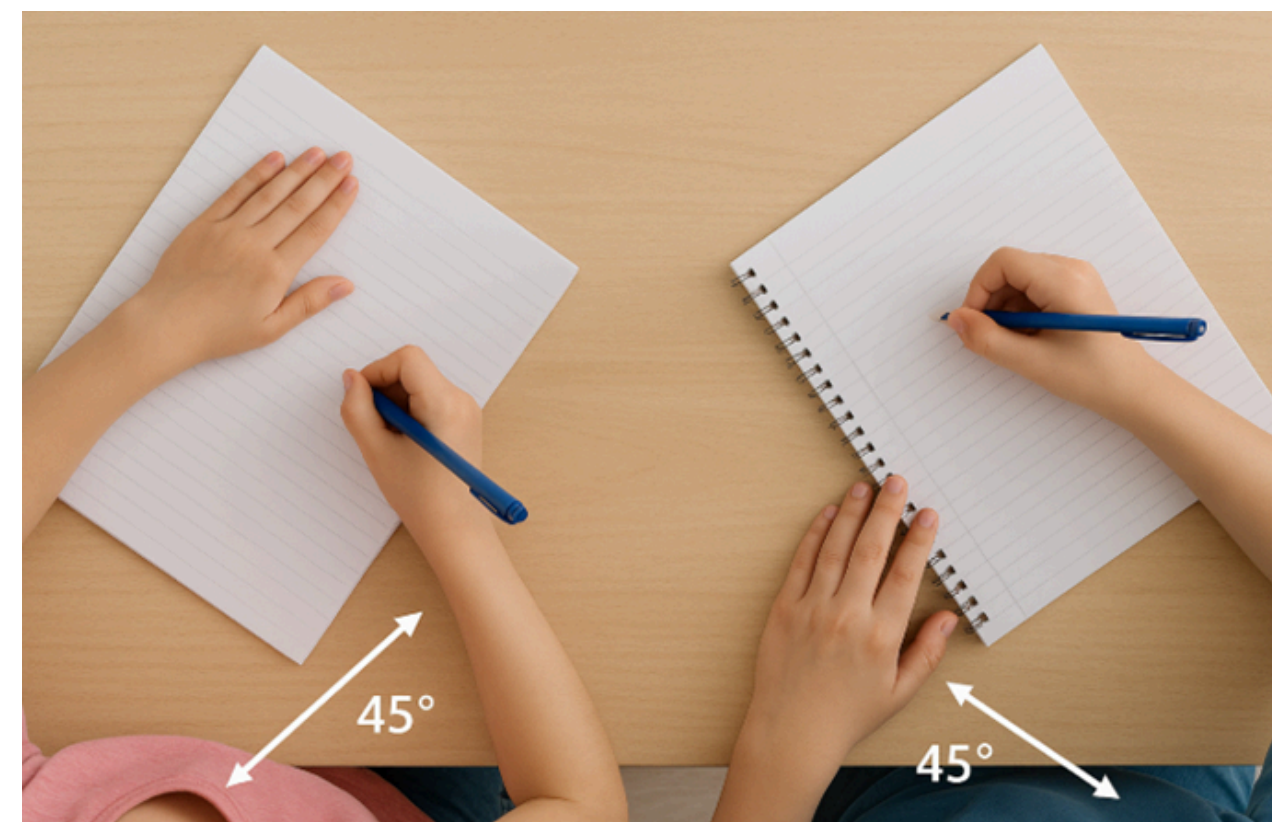


1 The “P”s of Handwriting

b. Paper – Positioning matters

Ideal position of paper for writing:

- Tilted at an angle of 45 degrees
- Non-dominant hand supporting the paper/book as they write



As an educator, I could keep a look out for the proper positioning of the worksheets/books of my students and provide prompts for them to achieve the ideal position.

1 The “P”s of Handwriting

c. Practice – Legibility in focus

Handwriting legibility depends on the following:

- Letters on the line
- Spacing between the words (and letters)
- Tall letters are taller than the others
- Fall letters go under the line

As an educator, you can remind the class before writing activities on 1 expectation you have on their handwriting legibility.



Strategy:

Spacing between words – meatballs, spacing between letters – spaghetti

SOME LETTERS ARE....

TALL small fall

Strategy:

Strategy on the different types of letters

2 Explicit and Systematic Handwriting Instruction

Teaching handwriting in a structured way helps students internalize the letter formation:

a. Modeling and Guided practice: Demonstrate proper letter formation step by step and guide students through repeated practice. This can be done as you write on the whiteboard or under the visualiser when going through worksheets or corrections. Spot common letters that the class have challenges with and model the letter formation as you teach.

Example: “The answer to this is “photosynthesis”, I would like you to take note when you write your “h” it’s a TALL letter, so it has to be taller than the other letters. It goes down, up halfway and curve down.”



2 Explicit and Systematic Handwriting Instruction

b. Consistent letter formation language: Use the same terminology and prompts across the classroom to build consistency.

c. Chunking and spacing strategies: Teach students to use finger spacing, highlighted lines or graph paper to maintain proper letter size and word spacing. Note a few students that may have challenges with sizing, to consider providing a group of them with a graph paper or thicker lines can be done for all worksheets.

d. Strategies can also be adjusted in accordance to their age group and interest:



Strategy:

Handwriting heroes to remind students on the different handwriting legibility components

i.e.

- ✓ Tina stays on the line
- ✓ George goes under the line
- ✓ Same size sisters
- ✓ Leo leaves a finger spacing

3 Step-by-step guide for some letter formations you can adopt

4 Whole-Class Techniques



a. Group demonstrations

b. Peer support – E.g. having buddies that provide their copy of worksheet/ book for peers to copy from instead of copying from screen for those who need more time

c. Call and response cues

d. Differentiated worksheets – E.g. Worksheets have thicker lines for answers to be written on, answers are in dotted lines for tracing (helps with pencil control practice)

e. Frequent but short practice sessions




4 Whole-Class Techniques

f. Handwriting warm-up exercises can be done as a class (in between written tasks or before written tasks)

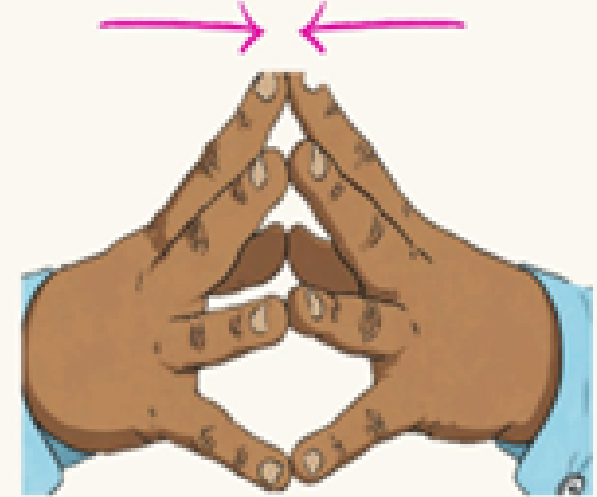
Press

1. Pretend there's a ball of playdoh under your hand
2. Press your hands down onto the table to flatten the imaginary ball!
3. Hold for 10 seconds



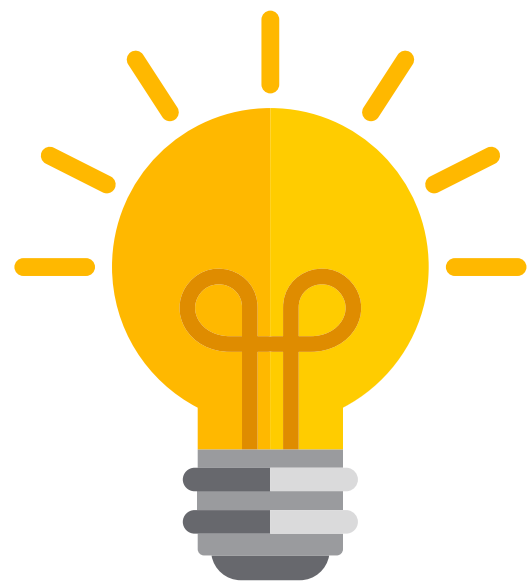
Push

1. Align each finger tip together
2. Push fingertips together!
3. Hold for 5 seconds.
4. Repeat 10 times!



5 Fostering Positive Mindset & Motivation





Final Thoughts, primary school teachers can create an inclusive environment that accommodates ALL students, regardless of abilities. Handwriting can then be less daunting for ALL students regardless of subjects.

When students feel supported in their handwriting journey, they gain confidence in their ability to communicate effectively, setting them up for lifelong academic success.

