

How To: Make a Handwriting House



A dedicated handwriting area helps to raise children's interest in developing their skills

Ingredients:

- A small area that you can enclose
- Large sheets of flat or corrugated card
- A small table and two chairs
- A variety of writing materials
- Materials for writing activities that can be done without an adult
- Changing displays of letter work and handwriting that reflect children's learning in phonics

It's important to present handwriting to children as an interesting, useful and valued skill from the outset. Practising handwriting in conjunction with spelling patterns aids the development of both skills, using phonics patterns and whole words currently in use by the children. This makes handwriting a fun and useful activity that clearly shows children their progress and achievement.

Creating a 'Handwriting House' – a dedicated handwriting area in your classroom will help to raise children's interest in it, and give them a quiet place to go and practice.

Make

- ➔ The aim is to make the area as attractive and cosy as possible for two children to work in at once. Use large sheets of flat or corrugated card to enclose a small table, and two chairs or stools. Fix the card to the table or the surrounding display walls with staples or parcel tape.
- ➔ Decorate the walls with engaging examples of handwriting that link to the work you are doing in phonics. Think about using different shaped paper for children to write on (cut out fish, butterfly, t-shirt or bubble shapes for example or make scrolls that can be hung up). Change these regularly and add work that children produce in this area.
- ➔ Provide a selection of writing materials. This could include; assorted thicknesses of pencil, fine and broad tipped felt pens, erasers and pencil sharpeners, assorted colours and sizes of scrap paper and containers for pens and paper to keep the area tidy.
- ➔ Provide material for activities that can be done with or without an adult. This could include; name cards to trace, small tracing books (20 sheets stapled together), high frequency words on cards to trace or copy, pre-handwriting exercises/patterns to copy.
- ➔ Celebrate children's achievements in this area.



Allow only two children into the area at a time to maintain a quiet atmosphere.

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Belair On Display - Hands on Literacy



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