

The Alphabet

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

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N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Debbie Hepplewhite's print and joined handwriting fonts



Handwriting Information

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Why are we doing it?

- Good handwriting is an essential skill in the quest to spell and write fluently, confidently and competently.
- A joined handwriting style links kinaesthetic 'muscle memory' with the relationship between sounds of our speech and the letter shapes, letter groupings and whole written words.
- The ability to write neatly can raise self-esteem and provides a motivating factor in the production of written work.

Posture and pencil or pen hold.

- Emphasise the need for good sitting posture.
- The writing hand should rest lightly on the paper below the words being written so that the words are not obscured.
- The paper may be tilted slightly to the right (for right-handers) or to the left (for left-handers) to increase comfort.
- The spare hand keep the paper secure.
- We teach the traditional tripod pencil grip.



Handwriting style.

- The style is an all-joined style with two main joins—a diagonal join which starts with the pencil point, or pen, on the writing line and a washing line join.
- The descenders of letters f, g, j and y “...go straight down through the writing line with a thin loop ...” and continue to form the beginning of the diagonal join to the following letter.
- The diagonal join and washing line join need to be adjusted for writing the letter e.
- All upper case, or capital letters are simple print letter shapes which do not join other letters.
- Teach that capital letters start ‘from the top’ or ‘in the air’ - that is, from just below the upper writing line.
- When writing a whole words which requires a capital letter at the beginning, a small space is left after the capital letter and the second (lower case) letter starts ‘on the line’ and all subsequent letters in the word are joined.