Appendix 11

Cursive Handwriting

Why teach cursive handwriting?

- By making each letter in one movement, children's hands develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape.
- All letters flow from left to right making it less likely for children to reverse letters.
- The continuous flow of writing helps children to spell accurately.

How do we teach handwriting?

- All of the letters start on the line. We describe this as a plane going along the runway and taking off.
- Most letters finish on the line.
- All letters finish with a 'flick' ready to join the next letter.
- The pencil/pen does not leave the page until the word is finished.
- t and x are crossed and i and j are dotted once the word is written.

Activities to support handwriting:

- tracing over letter or number
- drawing letter in sand
- painting number or letter
- writing the letter in the air with a wand
- writing outdoors with chalk
- drawing the letter in water
- using a paintbrush in glitter to draw
- making a letter with ribbon
- dance or walk the letter or number
- make the letter out of play dough
- write the letter in different colour pens
- make the letter using a pipe cleaner