

Cursive Handwriting

A Parent's Guide to Cursive Handwriting

At Thongsley Fields we teach the children to write in a 'cursive' style from Reception. When your child first comes to school, they will learn to form every letter with an entry and exit stroke which are called a *lead in* and a *lead out*.



This helps to build a solid foundation for teaching fully joined handwriting later on as your child gets older. Children are first taught that **every letter starts on the line**. Next we begin to teach *digraphs* (double letter sounds e.g. *oo* and *ea*) and *trigraphs* (triple letter sounds e.g. *igh* and *air*) as joined groups of letters. The first being...

ch, sh and th

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to trace over the handwriting sheets provided in your pack on a regular basis. Reluctant writers are often more willing to try if you give them different colour pens to trace over. You can even enlarge the letters and trace over using paint, chalk, using a bottle of water with a sports cap, or even tracing over the letters with a toy car.

Constant repetition is the key, emphasising the correct entry (lead in) and exit (lead out) strokes every time. It is essential that your child gets into good habits early on and this includes having the correct pencil grip.

One of the advantages of the cursive style is that you can quickly identify when a child is forming letters incorrectly.

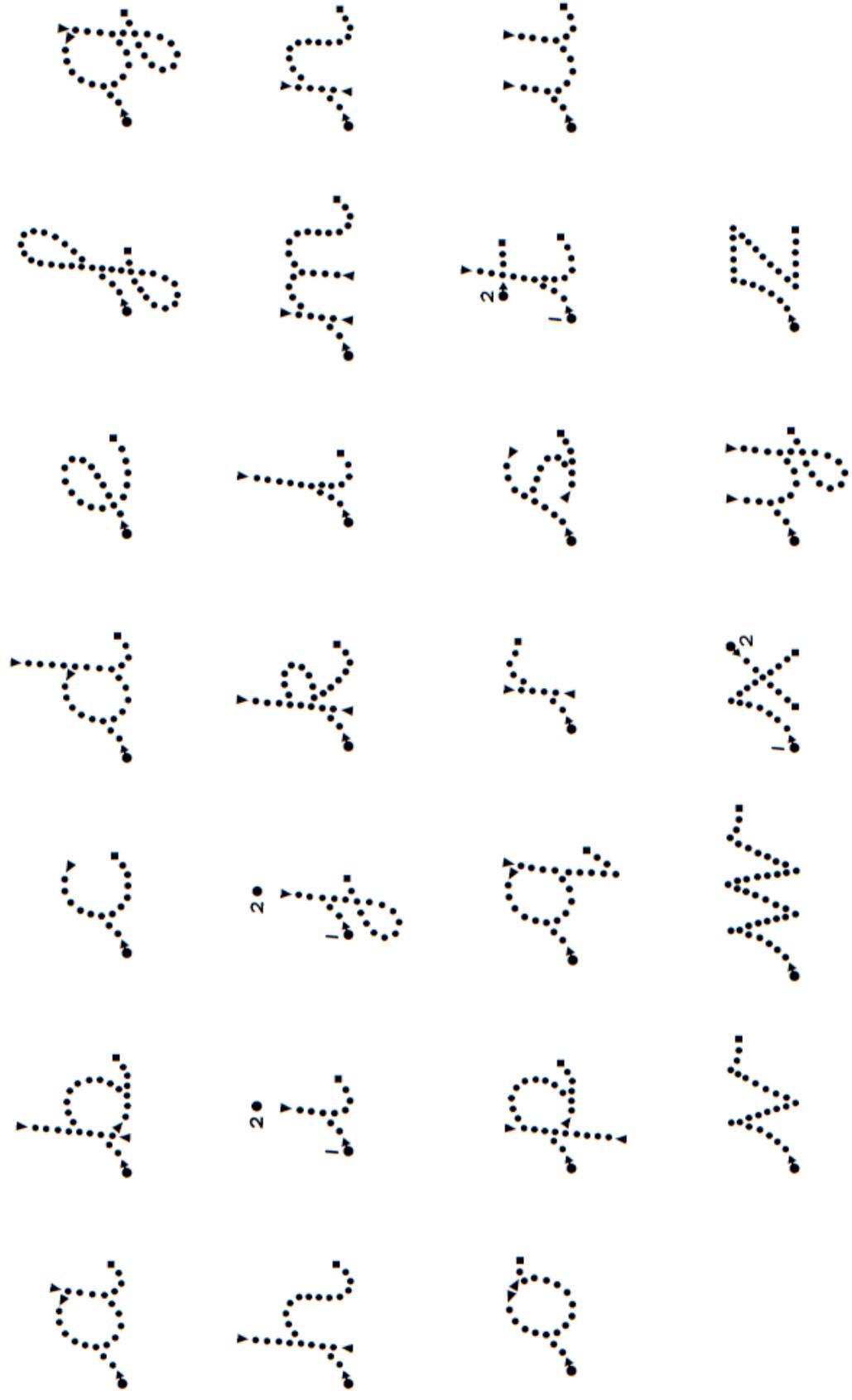
For example, when they are trying to start the letter *c* at the bottom right-hand side and moving upwards and clockwise, rather than starting with the entry (lead in) stroke and then moving back, anticlockwise from the top of the letter to the bottom.

Although the cursive style can seem quite tricky and laborious to start with as it takes slightly longer to write each letter separately, you will really see the benefits when your child starts to join fully towards the end of Year 1 and into Year 2.

For more information at any point, please ask the teaching team – they will be very happy to help!

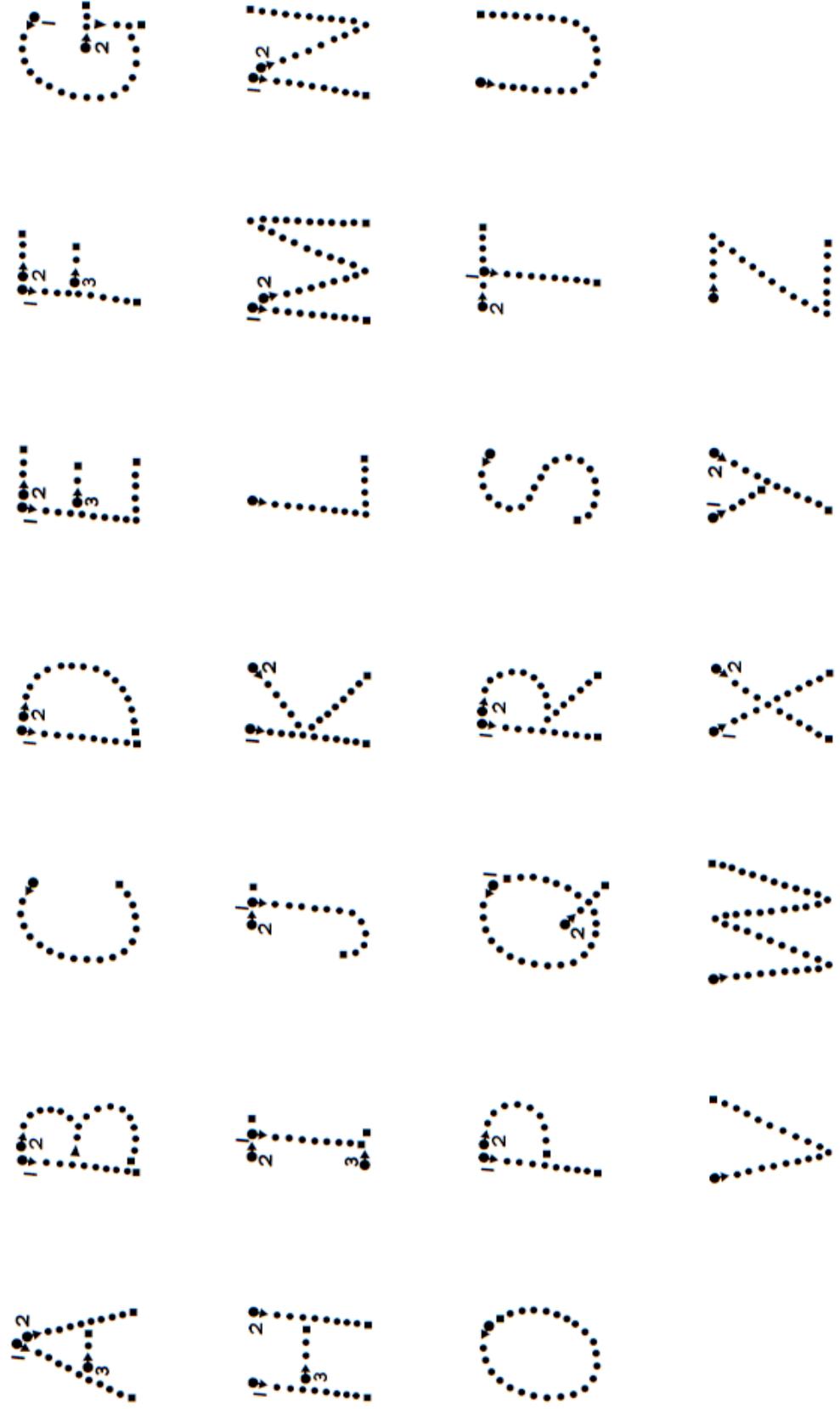
Start at the circle and follow the dotted line in the direction of the arrow. A triangle means you need to reverse direction.

Lift the pencil up when you get to the square.



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Some important points to remember when helping your child:

Always start forming the letters on the line.

'Tall letters' will touch the line above (e.g. b d h k l t f)

'Middle letters' are all the same height and stop at the midpoint of the line (e.g. a c e i m n o r s u v w x y z)

Some letters stretch down below the line. The top of these letters also touch the midpoint except for one (f g j p q y) - can you spot the odd one out?

In Reception and at the beginning of Year 1, the children learn to form each letter separately. Their writing will look something like this.

As the children are introduced to digraphs and trigraphs, they begin to join certain letter combinations e.g.

ch sh the ee ea igh

Towards the end of Year 1 and moving into Year 2, the children begin to join whole words and their writing will begin to look more like this.