

Top tips for teaching your child to write their name...

- Point out letters in your child's name.
- Write your child's name, saying the letters and sounds as you do.
- Ask your child to say the letters as you write them.
- Let your child have a go at copying their name. ...praise all efforts, even if the letters aren't yet recognisable.
- See if your child would like to take a turn on their own.
- Always model their name with a Capital letter followed by lowercase letters. This is how they will be taught to write their name at school.
- Research shows the average age for a child to be able to write their name is 5 years and 3 months. It is not an expectation they will learn to write their name whilst in the nursery. Please do not put pressure on your child to write their name before they are ready. Developing fine motor skills is far more important at this stage so they have strong muscles in their hands and arms in preparation for writing.

Display their name on posters and labels

Help your child grow accustomed to seeing their name printed in their bedroom or around the house. Label their lunch containers, toy boxes and books and hang posters on the walls which display their name printed in both capital and lowercase letters.

Create a name puzzle

Before your child learns to write their name they will need to be able to identify each letter and arrange them in the correct order. This can be done using fridge magnets, alphabet blocks, alphabet stamps or even using a computer or tablet. You can also create your own name puzzle by writing each letter of their name on a separate piece of paper and getting them to arrange the letters in the right order.

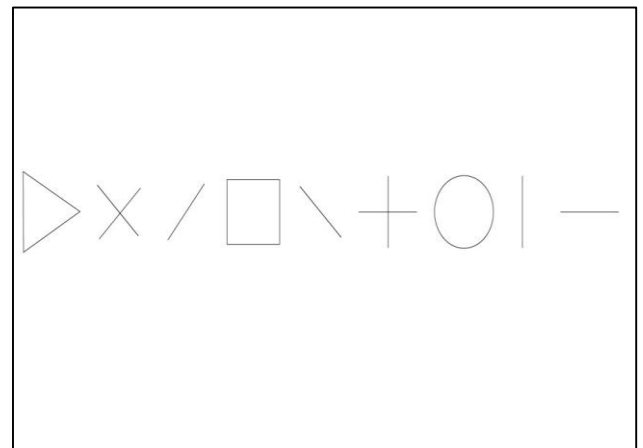
Praise early attempts at writing

Praise and encourage your child's earliest attempts at writing by hanging up their scribbles and mark making on the wall. This will give them a great sense of pride in their abilities and encourage them to improve.

Have fun experimenting with letter formation

Most children love a multisensory and hands-on approach to learning. Learning to form the letters in their name doesn't always have to be done with a pencil and paper. Experiment with different materials such as Clay, paints and even pieces dried fruit to form letters. Take turns writing invisible letters in the air or on each other's backs, tracing letters in the sand with a stick or writing letters on the bathroom mirror when it gets fogged up.

NB: The following shapes and patterns are also needed before children can attempt most letters...



Provide verbal instructions

Try to be encouraging and avoid being overly critical at your child's attempts to write their name. Learning to write letters takes time and patience. Before they try their hand at writing, show them how it's done while slowly explaining as you go. For example, you can say, 'I start at the top. I go down to the bottom.' Use words to describe the formation of different parts, such as 'big', 'small', 'straight' and 'curvy'.