

Letter to Parents

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians/Adult helpers

- Thank you for your support in improving a child's writing learning. Your support is valuable and appreciated.
- These ideas have been collated by teachers working with young and children with specific learning needs for over 15 years. The activities are tried and tested and the teachers have seen the difference and progress in learning in children who have fully engaged in the tasks on a regular basis.
- The ideas attached are not an exhaustive list and you may find other ways that suit a particular child's learning style more e.g. playing specifically focused ICT games or apps etc. However, invariably no one can replace the input of human interaction and many of the activities are designed to be fun, sensory and active – more in the interests of most children and people. We encourage you to give them a go with your child.
- In the interest of helping your child as much as possible please take the time to complete one or two activities a week to help consolidate skills and learning.
- Should you need further advice or help please don't hesitate to seek help from education professionals working with your child.

Many thanks

The Kognishin Team

Capital Letters

Ideas To Support Learning

- Match capital letters and small letters
- Write all in lowercase then change first letter of sentence and names to capital letters
- Play letter snap to match same capital and lower case letters
- Make a letter alphabet booklet by cutting from magazines and newspapers a capital and lower case letter for each letter – perhaps on a theme e.g. animals and draw and label an animal by each letter.
- Sing alphabet song (all the children know a ‘Bob the builder’ song version) and point at letters as singing them.
- Write Birthday cards and Thank you cards using capital letters for the D in dear and the start of each name and sentence.
- Go on a capital letter treasure hunt e.g. signs etc. – see when they are used and discuss why rules for capital letters are/are not being followed.
- Find capital letters in the reading book and say why each one is being used where it is being used.
- Find capital letters on a computer style keyboard as you say the sound.
- Write on a computer and learn to use ‘shift’ key.



Keywords – spelling/reading

Ideas To Support Learning

- Write words on a mat and play keyword bingo – web
- Put keywords on stairs and as your child climbs the stairs they sound them out and blend them – including the words that are not phonetic as they it helps children remember the letters to spell them.
- Magnetic letters on a fridge
- Buy or make foam letters to make in the bath.
- Have a keyword of the week/day and your child finds that word in books/recycling etc.
- Put keywords on a keyring and have your child read them on the way to school by flipping them over as they say them.
- Flash cards – not too many – and children read them as they see them.
- Use flashcards like a memory game. Place the cards upside down. If your child turns it over and read correctly they win the card.
- Find a word as many times as you can in a book.
- Check keywords are spelt correctly in everyday writing at home and at school. If they are wrong have your child redo them/support them.
- Make up silly rhymes to remember tricky words e.g. a common rhyme to learn said is “sad animals in danger”



Letter Formation

Ideas To Support Learning

- Sort letters into their letter families (those letters that start in the same/similar way or direction)
- Do lots of anti – clockwise movements e.g. stir a bowl anti clockwise so that the ‘c’ family is written correctly.
- Use string or a playdough sausage to make a letter – starting at the correct place
- Write letters on different textures and in different mediums e.g. pour salt on a tray and
- Practice handwriting in handwriting books.
- Redo letters in work at home if written from wrong starting point or incorrectly e.g. this is not a ‘m’
- Sit at a chair properly, hold a pencil correctly (‘froggy’ fingers) and tilt the paper the right way.
- Froggy fingers – forefinger and thumb hold the pencil, the middle finger lightly touches the pencil and the other finger rest on the table.
- Practise large motor shoulder exercises and finger exercises
- Copy out poems/letters/sentences that have been written correctly or copy letter repeatedly so that it matches the correct handwriting.
- Making writing patterns with other mediums e.g. chalk on a patio – it washes away or paint letters with water on the ground or a fence
- Double doodle – hold pencil or fingers out like a magic pencil and move arms in mirror image – i.e. if one hand goes out the other does to, if one goes up the other goes up etc.
- Colouring in and drawing
- Write a diary or a story or a comic.
- Practise making tall letters tall and small letters small.

