

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll  
Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

*an example of continuous cursive handwriting*

Continuous cursive handwriting is useful to the dyslexic child. Because his pencil stays on the page throughout every word, the motor-memory in his hand helps him to remember the order of the letters. It tends to be faster once it has been mastered, which helps later in their schooling.

The ground rules are:

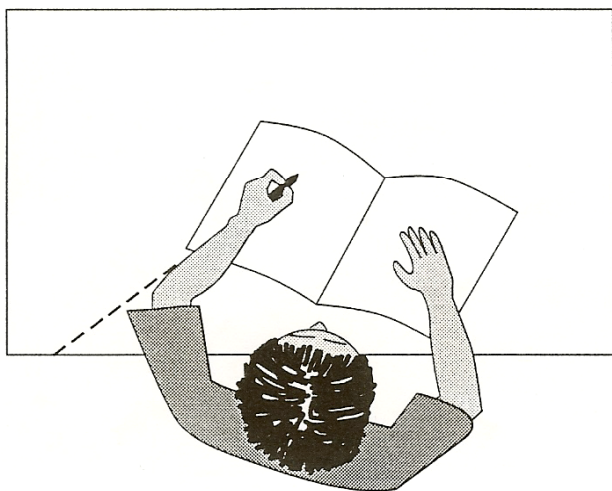
- Every word begins on the writing line (this avoids decisions by the child about where their pencil should start).
- The pencil stays on the page throughout every word (except where there is an 'x').
- Capitals do not join on to the rest of the word.

Beware of some published handwriting schemes that claim to be 'cursive'. If the pencil has to leave the page anywhere within a word, it is not appropriate for dyslexic pupils. The continuity of flow aids their memory significantly (e.g. Berol Cursive Handwriting Scheme).

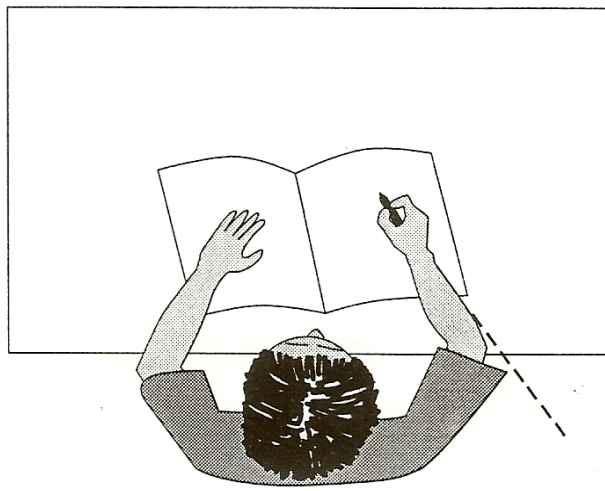
### Handwriting tips

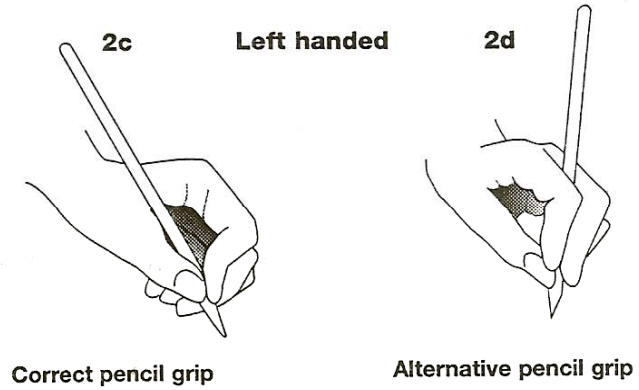
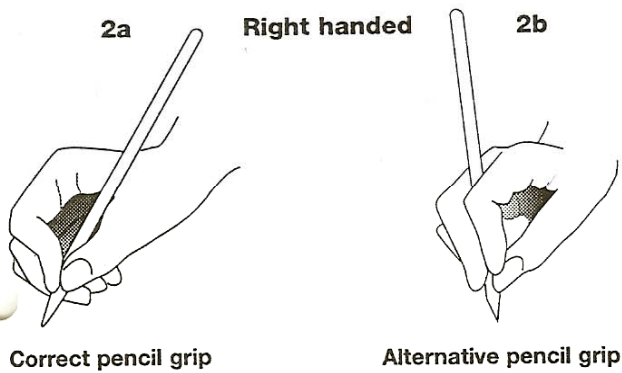
- With all ages it is important to practise writing patterns, to establish the feeling of continuous flow and to teach the hands the most frequently used movements.

Correct writing position for left-handed child



Correct writing position for right-handed child

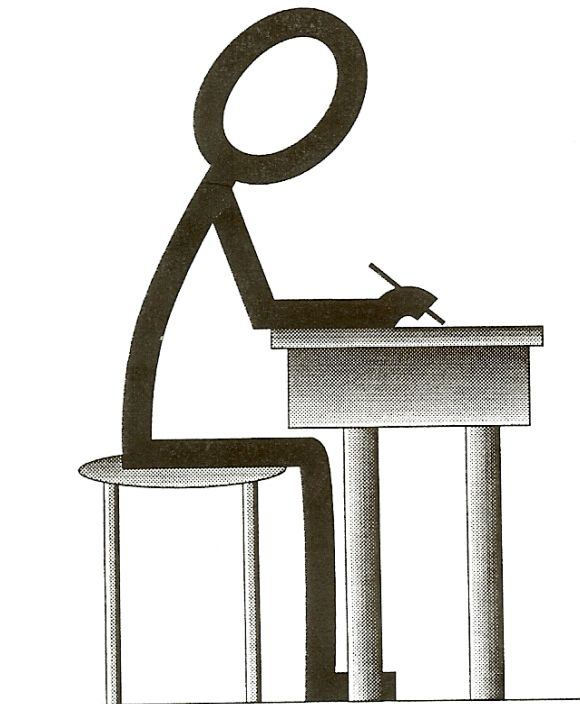




- Dyslexic children often find sitting at a desk or table to write a physical strain. It is important that they are taught to sit correctly (see illustration 1).
- They should be encouraged to use a correct pencil grip (see illustrations 2a, c). If they find this very difficult, even after practising with a triangular pencil grip, this alternative may be helpful (see illustration 2b, d). Try placing the pencil between the index and middle finger. If an incorrect grip is

very well established in older pupils, and they can control the pencil adequately, it may be best to leave their incorrect grip, but spend time on the letter formations.

- Left-handed children should sit to the left of right-handed children, to avoid their writing arms from bumping each other.
- Left handers should sit with their body and paper at a slant to the right (see illustration on page 20). This enables them to see their pencil tip, prevents them smudging their work with their writing hand and allows the pencil to move up and down without a feeling of having to continually push it.
- Plain paper is best for writing patterns.
- Paper that is ruled with wide-apart lines should be used to begin with for letters and words. Narrower double (tram-lines) ruling can vary from 4 to 5 mm (Phillip & Tacey special exercise books).
- Writing is a motor skill. We check it by looking, but we write with our hands not our eyes; writing with blindfolds on is very helpful to dyslexic pupils, as it concentrates their brain on to the physical movements involved.



1 The correct way to sit to write