



# Writing Stay and Learn

Guidance to your child's learning  
and development in the early years  
foundation stage



# Developmental Stages

## Reception

- Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.
- Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.
- Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.

## ELG

### Writing

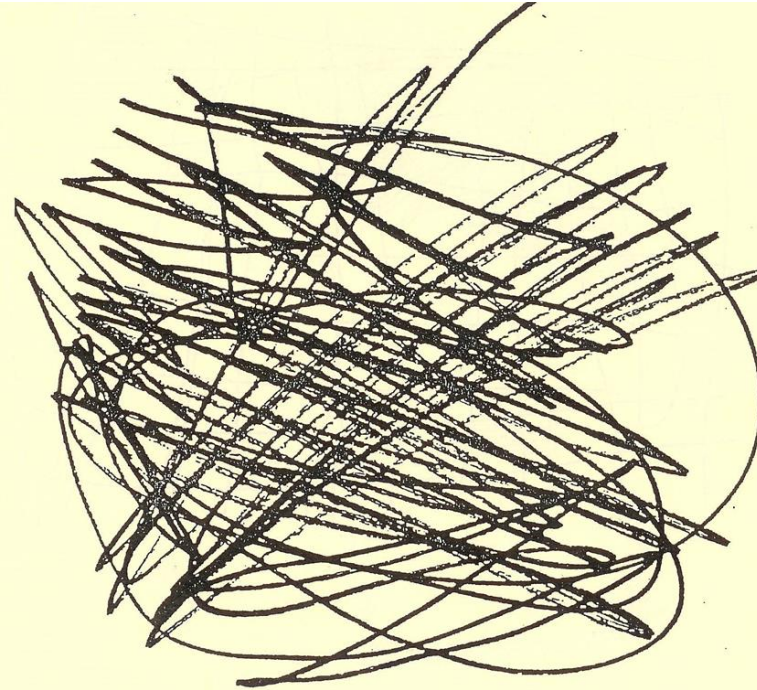
- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.



# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing: Use marks symbolically

- Understand that the marks they make have meaning and can be used to communicate their thoughts and ideas.
- Able to consider and plan what marks they are going to make before they begin writing.
- Understand the difference between drawing and writing.
- Make marks symbolically for multiple purposes, such as to tell stories, record what they can see, express their emotions and ideas, solve problems or show their thinking (including mathematical thinking).
- The marks have a meaning to the child, even though they often do not resemble what they are intended to represent.



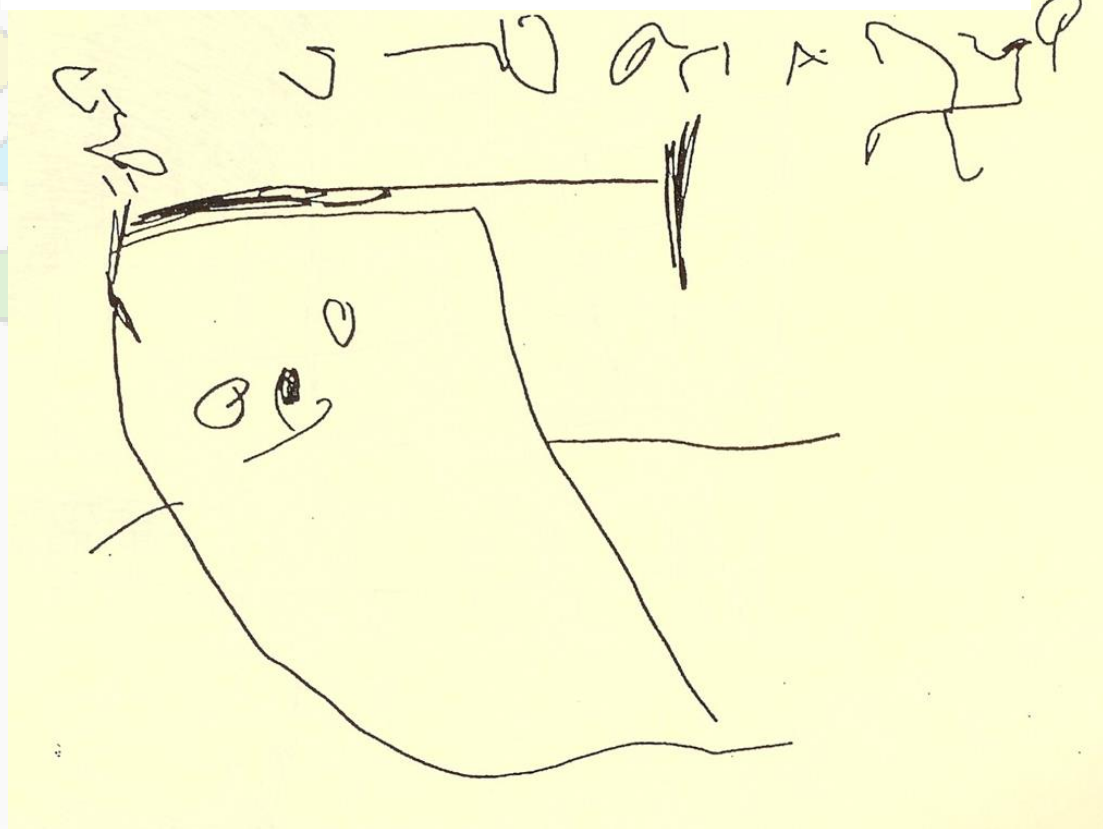


# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing:

### Begin to make marks that resemble identifiable letters

- Fine motor skills and pencil grip develop, enabling children to use mark-making tools with more control.
- A variety of marks that are needed for letter formation are able to be made, such as clockwise and anticlockwise rotational movements.
- Writing begins to include marks that resemble letters. At this stage, the letters may not be formed accurately.
- The letters written are random and children do not connect the letters to sounds from spoken language.
- Often, the first recognisable letters that are written are letters from the child's name - the first letter from their name in particular.





# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing: Develop an understanding of directionality

- An understanding of directionality is developed and writing progresses from left to right and top to bottom.
- Writing is often represented by a random string of letters.
- These letter strings do not usually contain any spaces.



## Stage of Early Writing: Write their own name

- The first full word children will often try to write is their name. Their name is a word that is very important to them.
- Their name will be written using identifiable letters but the letters may not be correctly formed.
- Progress to remembering how to write each letter in their name in the correct order, but do not yet connect the letters with their corresponding sounds.

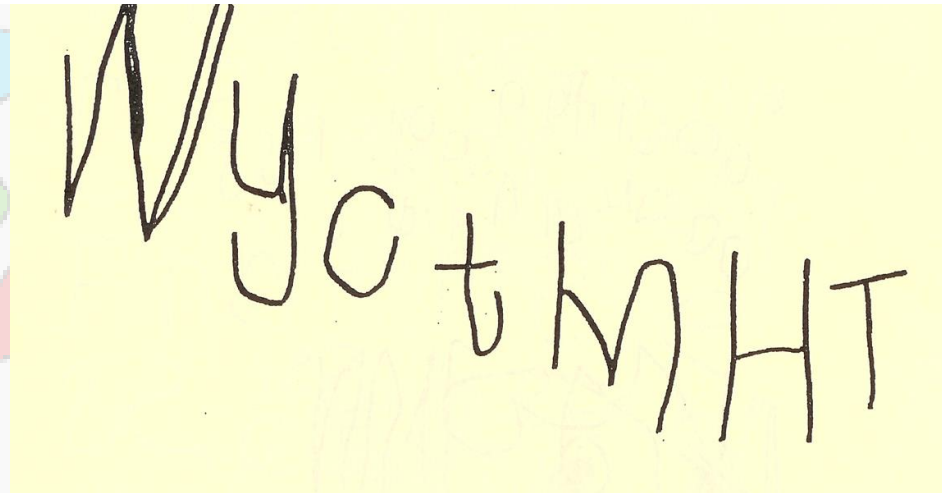


# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing:

Identify individual sounds in words and then write the sound with the corresponding letter

- Often, the first sound identified in a word is the initial letter sound. For example, if shown a picture of the sun, a child could identify that the word begins with the letter 's' and write the corresponding letter.
- The most prominent sound in a word may also be the first sound a child will identify and write.
- Progress to also being able to identify the final sounds in words and then the medial sounds.
- Initially, the letters written down may not be in an order and no spaces will be left between words.



**Message - will you come to  
my house tonight?**

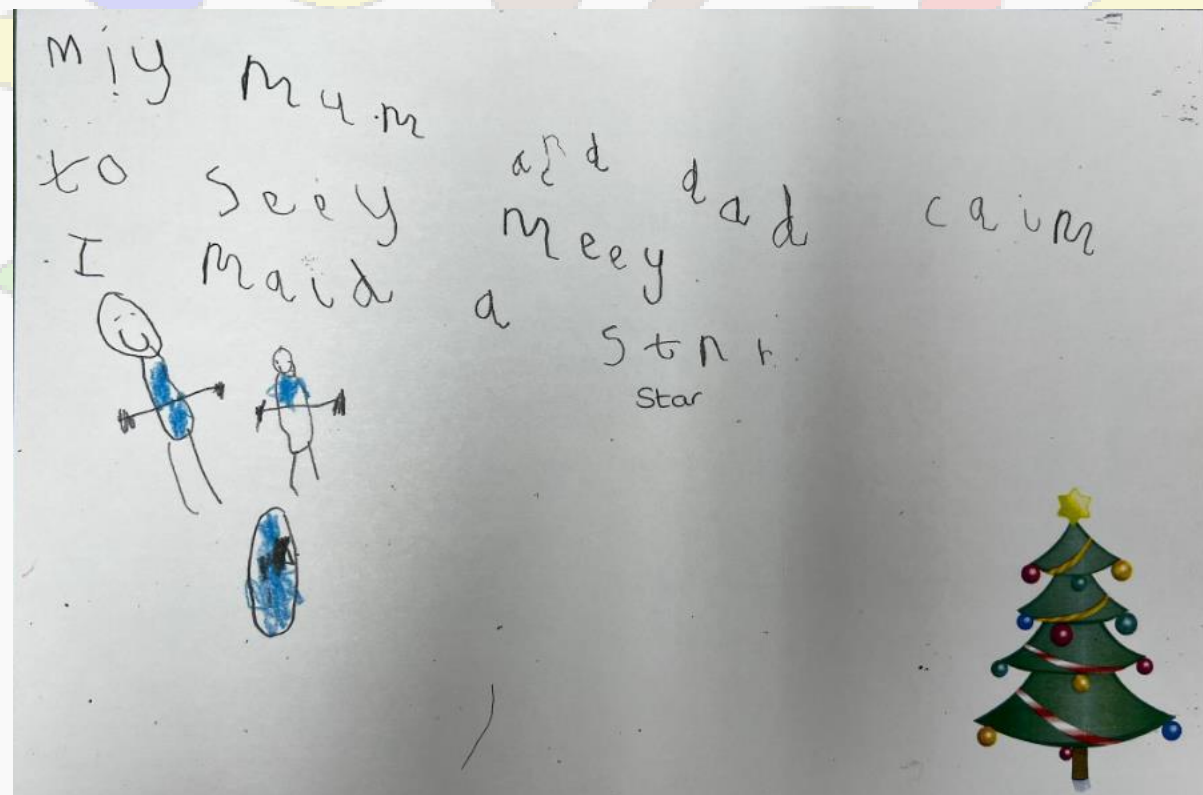


# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing:

Understand that words are made up of letters, which are a collection of different shapes

- Understanding of the concept of a word develops.
- Able to identify the difference between a letter and a word.
- Understands that a word is a collection of letters that are written in a specific order.
- Begin to become aware of the existence of spaces between words and the purpose of these.





# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing: Write a simple phrase or caption

- Write a simple phrase or caption by sounding out and writing the corresponding letters in simple words and also make phonetically plausible attempts at writing longer, more complex words.
- Spaces are added between each word in the phrase and it can be read by others.
- Writing contains words with letter groups, including digraphs (such as, 'sh') and trigraphs (such as, 'igh').
- Common exception words that have been taught may also be used in the writing, such as 'the'.

I had to ballans a beem bag  
ohmy hed and ruh rown a cone  
my mum and dad and hanand  
grandmar came to cheer me on. I  
had fun.





# Developmental Stages

## Stage of Early Writing: Write a simple sentence

- Able to say the sentence out loud before beginning to write it to organise their thinking and decide upon sentence structure.
- Write a simple sentence, which contains spaces between each word and can be read by others.
- Write sentences that contain simple words that have been spelt correctly, as well as more complex words, which children have used their phonics knowledge to attempt to spell.
- Sentences may also contain words which contain letter groups and common exception words.
- Understanding that sentences begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop develops and children may begin to use these with increasing accuracy in their writing.
- Rereads a sentence that has been written to check that it makes sense.

## Stage of Early Writing: Use a variety of writing structures

- Write for a range of purposes and use different writing structures to match the type of writing. For example, writing a list, instructions, a card, a recipe or a story.
- Several sentences may be written which begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop.
- Writing can be read and understood by others.