

Letter patters

Since young children are often multi-sensory learners, it is helpful to describe the pencil movements at the same time as children see and do them. These descriptions are called 'letter patters'. All adults in the setting are encouraged to use the same patters so that the children learn through repetition. You can

even send them home to support parents as they practise the letter formation at home. It is very important that we instill correct letter formation from the beginning: it takes around 200 repetitions of a movement for it to become a learned movement and about 4,000 repetitions to correct a

letter formation than has been learned incorrectly. Letter patters, when they are used consistently, are one way of supporting correct letter formation from the beginning.

Long-legged giraffe family			
l	Start at the top, come all the way down and flick.	L	Start at the top, come down and go across.
i	Start at the top, come down and flick. Lift and dot.	I	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Across at the top. Lift. Across at the bottom.
t	Start at the top, come all the way down and curve. Lift and cross.	T	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Across at the top.
u	Start at the top, come down and curve. Go back up, come back down and flick.	U	Start at the top, come down. Curve back up.
j	Start at the top, come all the way down and curve to the left. Lift and dot.	J	Start at the top, come down. Curve to the left. Lift. Across at the top.
y	Start at the top, come all the way down and curve. Go back up, come all the way down and curve to the left.	Y	Slope down, slope back up. Lift. Come down from the point.
One-armed robot family			
r	Start at the top, come down, bounce back up and over.	R	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Go all the way round and slope.
b	Start at the top, come all the way down, bounce half-way back up and go all the way round.	B	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Go all the way round and all the way round again.
n	Start at the top, come down, bounce back up, go over, down and flick.	N	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Slope and straight up.
h	Start at the top, come all the way down, bounce half-way back up, go over, down and flick.	H	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Start at the top come down. Lift and across in the middle.
m	Start at the top, come down, bounce back up and over. Down, bounce back up and over. Down and flick.	M	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Slope down, slope up and straight down.
k or k	Start at the top, come all the way down, bounce half-way back up. Loop. Slope and flick. or Start at the top, come all the way down. Lift. Slope. Slope and flick.	K	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Slope in, slope out.
p	Start at the top, come all the way down, bounce back up and go all the way round.	P	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Go all the way round.
Curly caterpillar family			
c	Make a curve.	C	Make a curve.
a	Make a curve, go up to the top, come back down and flick.	A	Slope to the left. Lift back to the top. Slope. Lift. Across in the middle.
d	Make a curve, go all the way up, come back down and flick.	D	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Go all the way round to the bottom.
o	Make a curve, go all the way round.	O	Make a curve, go all the way round.
s	Make a curve, slope, make a curve back again.	S	Make a curve, slope, make a curve back again.
g	Make a curve, go up to the top, come all the way down and curve to the left.	G	Make a curve. Lift and go across.
q	Make a curve, go up to the top, come all the way down and flick.	Q	Make a curve, go all the way round. Lift and slope across.
e	Start with a loop then make a curve.	E	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Across at the top. Lift. Across in the middle. Lift. Across at the bottom.
f	Make a curve, come all the way down, curve to the left. Lift and cross.	F	Start at the top, come down. Lift. Back to the top. Across at the top. Lift. Across in the middle.
Zig-zag monster family			
z	Go across, slope, go back across.	Z	Go across, slope, go back across.
v	Slope down, slope back up.	V	Slope down, slope back up.
w	Slope down, slope back up. Slope down again and slope back up.	W	Slope down, slope back up. Slope down again and slope back up.
x	Slope. Lift and slope across.	X	Slope. Lift and slope across.