

Let's write!

Darell Nursery's top tips for early writing

Have a supply of different sized paper for your child to write on – young children are happy with scrap paper, the back of envelopes and letters.

Have a supply of different writing materials – felt pens of different thickness, thin and thick chinks, paint brushes of different sizes – make sure they are in good condition so that your child will want to use them.

Children love to use water to paint with and to watch it dry and disappear. So let them paint water on to outside walls and paths as well as paper.

Children need strong fingers to write so give them playdough and clay to work with, to push objects into and pull out of. They should practise cutting and threading.

Buy a roll of lining paper – it's cheap and children need to draw on a large scale. Stretch it out across the floor.

Let your child lie down on their tummy to draw.

Children like to write on clipboards. You can make one by attaching paper with a clip to a piece of hard cardboard.

Make sure your child sees you writing, such as making lists and writing cards. Maybe write a short note to your child using drawings and words.

Let your child write in steam on a mirror or window, or write in hand lotion on a plate or table top.

Young children need a lot of experience writing on a big scale, using lots of different equipment before they are ready to pick up a pen and write small letters. So let them write!