

work, letters that are consistently being written too large or small could be practised separately.

- Recap on letter placement, i.e. which letters rest on the line, drop below the line or start above the line. Identify problem letters and practice using clearly lined paper.

Difficulties with spacing of letters

- If a child is writing with no spaces between their words, ask them to self-correct their work using a red pencil slash to indicate where the spaces should be. Give the child a target number of words to fit on the line: LESS than they are currently doing. (If the problem is that spaces between words are too big, give the child a target of MORE words to fit on a line.)
- Remind them to put a space between each word by doing practice exercises. Ask each child to draw a smiley face/use a small rubber stamp etc. after each word to exaggerate the concept of space. Compare the before and after pieces of writing so that the child can see how much more readable their work is when correctly spaced out.
- Placing the little finger of the non-writing hand on the page can act as a good indicator of space. This is a habit that could be encouraged whilst this skill is being consolidated in your sessions.
- Practice sentence writing on the black / white board using lines to guide work. These can be used for group discussions and everyone gets to have a go.

Difficulties with punctuation

- Recap on basic punctuation and its uses: present the group with a card matching game whereby they have the name of the punctuation, i.e. 'full stop', the symbol that represents it and a third card with a description of its purpose, i.e. 'it goes at the end of sentences'. Give the group one card each and ask them to find the matching cards. When all are found, these can be shown to the whole group to visually and verbally reinforce all the concepts.
- Write sentences on the black / white board. Have a selection of punctuation symbols drawn on pieces of card (i.e. question mark, exclamation mark, full stop, speech marks, commas etc.). Attach blu-tack to the back of each one. Ask a child to come up and add the necessary punctuation to your sentence. Discuss with the class. Alternatively ask all group members to come up one at a time to each put on a piece of punctuation.
- For individual work: Present worksheets containing no punctuation and repeat as above.

Try to keep the group as creative and interesting as possible. Creating games and activities out of concepts that the children are struggling with may motivate them and promote greater involvement. Finally, if you are going to provide homework tasks, keep them short: 10 minutes a day is more likely to be continued rather than an hour once a week.