

- Shorten crayons and pencils to 3cms, to encourage tripod grip

Alternative methods of recording

For some older children or young people it is beneficial to promote alternatives to handwriting. If handwriting problems prevent them achieving their full potential, these alternatives could be considered:

For the student

- Use of a 'dictaphone' or voice recording device to dictate
- Using a word processor system - especially for when presentation is required
- Using diagrams, spider diagrams and mind maps
- Allow the use of a laptop in the class. A good resource for IT information is Ability Net

t: 0800 269545

w: www.abilitynet.co.uk.

Their helpline provides up to date information about suitable IT equipment and suppliers.

- Writing key points only when taking notes
- Using plans when writing a story - divide into sections and write key points
- Using answer sheets where the gaps need to be filled in

For teachers

- Request photocopied notes where possible
- Request extra time for children with handwriting difficulties
- It is important to consider that a child may be concentrating so hard on their writing that they may miss verbal instructions.
- Request that your child sits at the front of the class near the board

Useful resources

- Write from the Start, Ion Teodorescu, Lois Addy
- Left hand Writing Skills, Mark and Heather Stewart
- Speed Up!: a Kinaesthetic Programme to Develop Fluent Handwriting, Lois Addy
- Get a Grip, Pencil grip selection box (Special Direct, www.specialdirect.com)
- Posture Pack (www.backinaction.co.uk)
- Various mazes, dot to dots books
- Dexteria handwriting app for tablets.