

Joining Letters

Twinkl Handwriting | Year 3 & Year 4 | Steps to Progression Overview

The aim of this overview is to show the most logical sequence for teaching each area of handwriting when using Twinkl Handwriting. However, Twinkl Handwriting is designed to be a pick 'n' mix style scheme. If you feel that your students need to concentrate on a specific letter family or a particular skill, you could tailor the programme to fit the requirements of your learners.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	The Ladder Family (l, i, u, t, y and j)						Assess and Review		The One-Armed Robot Family (n, m and h)			Handwriting Practice
Spring	The One-Armed Robot Family (k, b, p and r)				Assess and Review		The Curly Caterpillar Family (c, a, d, e, s and g)					
Summer	The Curly Caterpillar Family (f, q and o)		Assess and Review			The Zigzag Monster Family (z, v, w and x)			Assess and Review		Handwriting Practice	

Year 3 and Year 4 Assessment Statements

By the end of these lessons, most children should be able to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined;
- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant and that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.

Introduction

Twinkl Handwriting's packs have been created to teach children the sets of letter 'families' in a progressive teaching sequence. Within each PowerPoint presentation, all lower case letters are shown using a printed, pre-cursive style (without lead-ins or lead-outs) with the aim of securing the correct basic letter formation and positioning for the entire alphabet before adjusting handwriting to a preferred style.

If you wish to adopt a cursive or continuous cursive style in year 3 or year 4, a cursive (Twinkl unlooped) and continuous cursive (Twinkl looped) alternative version of all PDF worksheets are available within each download. Each PowerPoint presentation is also fully editable if you would like to use the cursive or continuous cursive animated letter formation GIFs.

Resources

Within the following progression overview, you will find links to the cursive or continuous cursive lesson packs needed for each session. If you would prefer for your learners to have a handwriting booklet to work through, [click here](#) for cursive or [here](#) for continuous cursive. Alternatively, you could also combine handwriting practice with statutory spelling word revision using our [Year 3 & Year 4 Statutory Spelling Words Handwriting Activity Sheets](#).

Autumn Term Lesson Progression

Week	Content	Description	Useful Links
1	The Ladder Family: Lesson 1 The Letter 'l'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the letter name and the sound of the letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
2	The Ladder Family: Lesson 2 The Letter 'i'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show the animation of how to form the lower case letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
3	The Ladder Family: Lesson 3 The Letter 'u'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model and then ask children to complete the relevant Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
4	The Ladder Family: Lesson 4 The Letter 't'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide further challenge with the relevant Extra Practice Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
5	The Ladder Family: Lesson 5 The Letter 'y'		Cursive Continuous Cursive
6	The Ladder Family: Lesson 6 The Letter 'j'		Cursive Continuous Cursive
7	The Ladder Family: Assess and Review Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that children can correctly form each letter within The Ladder Family. Ask children to independently form six letters from The Ladder Family on handwriting lines to complete the words. 	Twinkl Handwriting: The Ladder Family: Year 3 & Year 4 Assess and Review Resource Pack
8	The Ladder Family: Assess and Review Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask children to write nonsense words (including capital letters) onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. Challenge children to copy longer words onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. 	

9	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 1: The Letter 'n'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the letter name and the sound of the letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
10	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 2: The Letter 'm'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the animation of how to form the lower case letter. • Model and then ask children to complete the relevant Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
11	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 3: The Letter 'h'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide further challenge with the relevant Extra Practice Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
12	Handwriting Practice	Encourage children to practise their skills and to form and join lower case letters correctly by using one of our activity booklets.	Cursive Continuous Cursive

Spring Term Lesson Progression

Week	Content	Description	Useful Links
1	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 4: The Letter 'k'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the letter name and the sound of the letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
2	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 5: The Letter 'b'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show the animation of how to form the lower case letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
3	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 6: The Letter 'p'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model and then ask children to complete the relevant Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
4	The One-Armed Robot Family Lesson 7: The Letter 'r'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide further challenge with the relevant Extra Practice Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
5	The One-Armed Robot Family: Assess and Review Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that children can correctly form each letter within The One-Armed Robot Family. Ask children to independently form six letters from The One-Armed Robot Family on handwriting lines to complete the words. 	Twinkl Handwriting: The One-Armed Robot Family: Year 3 & Year 4 Assess and Review Resource Pack
6	The One-Armed Robot Family: Assess and Review Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask children to copy nonsense words (including capital letters) onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. Challenge children to copy longer words onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. 	

7	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 1: The Letter 'c'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the letter name and the sound of the letter. • Show the animation of how to form the lower case letter. • Model and then ask children to complete the relevant Activity Sheet. • Provide further challenge with the relevant Extra Practice Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
8	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 2: The Letter 'a'		Cursive Continuous Cursive
9	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 3: The Letter 'd'		Cursive Continuous Cursive
10	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 4: The Letter 'e'		Cursive Continuous Cursive
11	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 5: The Letter 's'		Cursive Continuous Cursive
12	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 6: The Letter 'g'		Cursive Continuous Cursive

Summer Term Lesson Progression

Week	Content	Description	Useful Links
1	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 7: The Letter 'f'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the letter name and the sound of the letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
2	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 8: The Letter 'q'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show the animation of how to form the lower case letter. Model and then ask children to complete the relevant Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
3	The Curly Caterpillar Family Lesson 9: The Letter 'o'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide further challenge with the relevant Extra Practice Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
4	The Curly Caterpillar Family: Assess and Review Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that children can correctly form each letter within The Curly Caterpillar Family. Ask children to independently form six letters from The Curly Caterpillar Family on handwriting lines to complete the words. 	Twinkl Handwriting: The Curly Caterpillar Family: Year 3 & Year 4 Assess and Review Resource Pack
5	The Curly Caterpillar Family: Assess and Review Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask children to copy nonsense words (including capital letters) onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. Challenge children to copy longer words onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. 	

6	The Zigzag Monster Family Lesson 1: The Letter 'z'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the letter name and the sound of the letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
7	The Zigzag Monster Family Lesson 2: The Letter 'v'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the animation of how to form the lower case letter. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
8	The Zigzag Monster Family Lesson 3: The Letter 'w'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model and then ask children to complete the relevant Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
9	The Zigzag Monster Family Lesson 4: The Letter 'x'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide further challenge with the relevant Extra Practice Activity Sheet. 	Cursive Continuous Cursive
10	The Zigzag Monster Family: Assess and Review Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that children can correctly form each letter within The Zigzag Monster Family. • Ask children to independently form six letters from The Zigzag Monster Family on handwriting lines to complete the words. 	Twinkl Handwriting: The Zigzag Monster Family: Year 3 & Year 4 Assess and Review Resource Pack
11	The Zigzag Monster Family: Assess and Review Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask children to copy nonsense words (including capital letters) onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. • Challenge children to copy longer words onto handwriting lines using their neatest joined style. 	
12	Handwriting Practice	Encourage children to practise their skills and to form and join lower case letters correctly by using one of our activity booklets.	Cursive Continuous Cursive