

Writing Readiness Checklist 2026-2027

Gross motor skills

- ☐ Can sit upright at a table or on the floor with good posture
- ☐ Has core strength to maintain a stable writing position
- ☐ Demonstrates shoulder and arm control (e.g. climbing, throwing, sweeping movements)

Fine motor skills

- ☐ Uses one-handed tools confidently (scissors, paintbrushes, cutlery)
- ☐ Shows increasing control when manipulating small objects (beads, tweezers, construction)
- ☐ Can use both hands together (one hand stabilises, the other works)

Hand dominance

- ☐ Shows a clear preference for a dominant hand
- ☐ Uses the same hand consistently for mark-making and writing

Pencil Grip and Control

- ☐ Holds a pencil using a developing or secure tripod grip
- ☐ Applies appropriate pressure (not too light or heavy)
- ☐ Can make controlled marks, lines, and shapes
- ☐ Begins to form some recognisable letters or letter-like shapes

Pre-Writing Skills

- ☐ Can draw lines (vertical, horizontal, diagonal)
- ☐ Can copy simple shapes (circles, crosses, squares)
- ☐ Can draw pictures with increasing detail
- ☐ Can write or attempt to write own name