



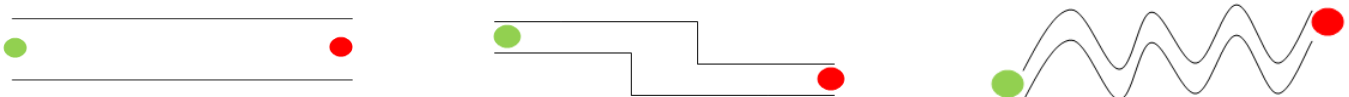
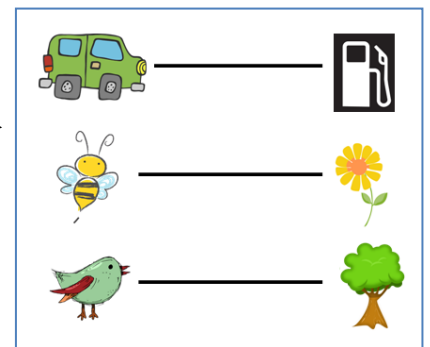
Developing Pencil Skills - Pencil Control & Fluency

Why is this skill important?

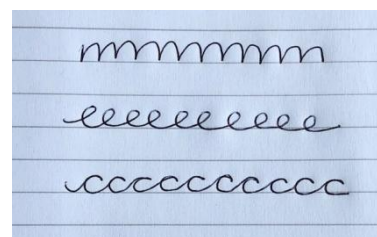
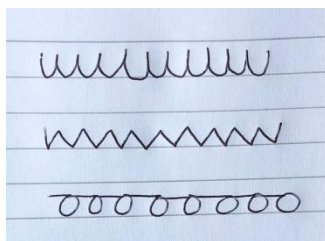
Being able to control your pencil and move it in a smooth way without lots of breaks is an important skill for learning how to write. It's a really important skill for children who use joined up or cursive writing. The activities below can help to develop these skills;

Activities

- Try different pencils or pens to see what your child finds easier to use. Some are smoother to write with than others.
- Use whole arm movements to create patterns in the air. You could use a wand or a ribbon on a string
- Make shapes and squiggles on the wall or ground using chalk
- Use a finger or stick to draw in sand or shaving foam
- Use a pencil or crayon to join pictures together
- Dot-to-dot pictures or pictures with a dotted outline
- Mazes
- Drawing along pencil trails or tracks— start with wider lines and gradually get smaller. Try to keep the pencil within the lines. A green dot can help your child know where to start.



- Try copying patterns like the ones shown below while keeping the pencil moving;



- Drawing patterns in time to music or a rhythmical beat can be helpful for some children
- Try to make 'tornadoes' or 'snails' by moving the pencil with only your fingers whilst trying to keep the wrist still



- As your child begins to form patterns without thinking, gradually make everything smaller