

Activity 7 – Letter formation

Write letters and identifying them by ‘feel’

What to do

- Choose a letter and write it on your child’s non- dominant hand as they watch, using your finger like a pencil. What letter is it? Can they tell? *You can identify it by the letter name or the sound it makes – either is fine.*
- Ask your child to write the same letter on your hand. Praise their formation or help them if they are not forming the letter correctly (*see below for guidance*).
- Now for a trickier task. Say you are going to write a new letter and they will try to work out what it is just by feeling it. This time, ask your child to shut their eyes as you write. Can they guess it by feeling the formation?
- When they guess the letter, get them to try writing it on your hand. You can show them with their eyes open first.

Extension

Play the guessing game, taking turns to write a letter while the other guesses it through touch.

Try ‘sky-writing’ in the air with fingers or on backs.

What you need

See below for [Guidance for writing](#) and [Handwriting Letter Groups](#) for formation help

Letter Groups

<p>Group 1 – Long Ladder Letters</p> <p><i>Start at the top and come down the ladder and go off into another direction.</i></p> <p>i j l t u</p>	<p>Group 2 – Bouncing Ball Letters</p> <p><i>Start at the top, go down and then re-trace upwards.</i></p> <p>b h k m n p r</p>
<p>Group 3 – Curly Caterpillar Letters</p> <p><i>Start at the top and go anti-clockwise round.</i></p> <p>c a d e g o q f s</p>	<p>Group 4 – Zigzag Letters</p> <p><i>Start at the top and zigzag down and up again.</i></p> <p>v w x z</p>

Questions to ask

Can you see what letter I am writing?
What does it feel like? What if you close your eyes? Can you feel which letter it is?
Can you write on my hand? How/where does the letter start? Can you think of a new letter to write on my hand?