

Getting ready to write.

Handwriting is a complicated process that a child develops over time. The process of learning all of the skills required for handwriting commences even before the child starts school. These skills include motor control, balance, fine motor skills and concepts of top, bottom, under and over. Handwriting is an important part of literacy and success with handwriting often indicates future academic success as well.

The Fremantle Language Development Centre use the Peggy Lego program to help children learn the basic strokes that are required for letter formation. This is a sensory motor approach where we use whole body movements, sensory feedback and consistent verbal and visual cues to help the child understand these basic movements and strokes. Peggy Lego was actually a WA teacher who designed the program and has been around since I was at school!

What are the patterns?

The prewriting patterns and cues used at the Fremantle Language Development Centre are:



Once children can master the pattern, they can then embed them into letters of the alphabet as they learn their letters and sounds. Sometimes children need lots of reminders and prompts, but as their skills improve, these prompts can decrease.

Evidence indicates that tracing and copying are some of the least effective forms of handwriting instruction, so to help your child master early handwriting skills, find out more information on the links below.

- Information sheet on Peggy Lego <http://fremantleldc.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Peggy-Lego-Pre-Writing-Patterns.pdf>
- Letter cues for Peggy Lego <http://fremantleldc.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Peggy-Lego-Magic-Words.pdf>
- Number cues for Peggy Lego: https://812a2c38-d4f3-42fa-af97-82321bd89085.filesusr.com/ugd/29b9ce_24652fac4f8b4371abc515a50f205eea.pdf
- YouTube clip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0sCjOE-WGg&t=50s>

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