Read Write Inc.
Phonics

Handwriting Stage 1a:
Letter formation

Follow the guidance on pp.25–28 of *Phonics Handbook 1*
and use the checklists below to teach handwriting
for the following letters:

- 'Around' letters: **c a o d g q**

- 'Down' letters: **l t b p k h i j m n r u y**

- 'Curly' letters: **e f s**

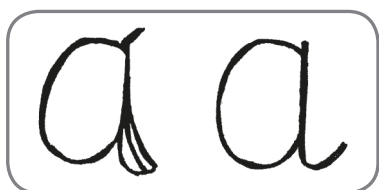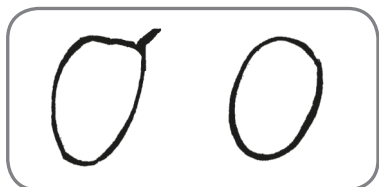- 'Zigzag' letters: **v w z x.**

'Around' letters

Checklist: caterpillar

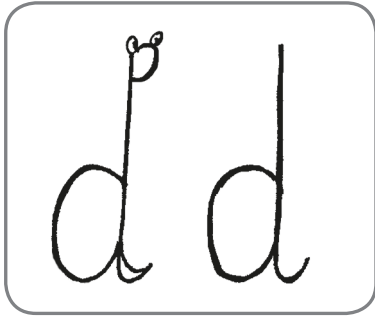- ✓ start at the caterpillar's head
- ✓ curl around the body

Checklist: apple

- ✓ start at the stalk
- ✓ draw a nice round apple
- ✓ go back up to the stalk, then down
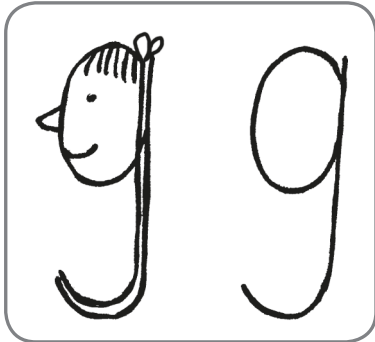- ✓ curl the leaf at the bottom

Checklist: orange

- ✓ start at the stalk
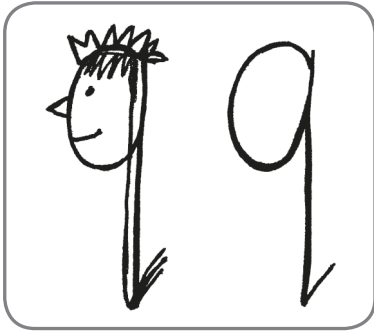- ✓ draw a nice round orange

Checklist: dinosaur

- ✓ draw a big round bottom
- ✓ up the tall neck
- ✓ down the straight line to the feet
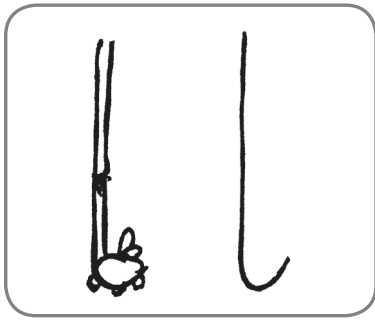- ✓ draw a curl for the feet

Checklist: girl

- ✓ start at her hair bobble on top of her head
- ✓ draw a nice round face
- ✓ go back up to her bobble
- ✓ down her very straight hair
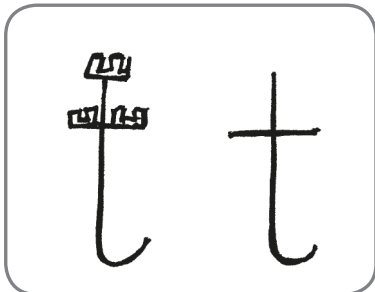- ✓ draw a round curl to finish

Checklist: queen

- ✓ start at her hair bobble on top of her head
- ✓ draw a nice round face
- ✓ go back up to her bobble
- ✓ down her very straight hair
- ✓ add a sharp flick to finish
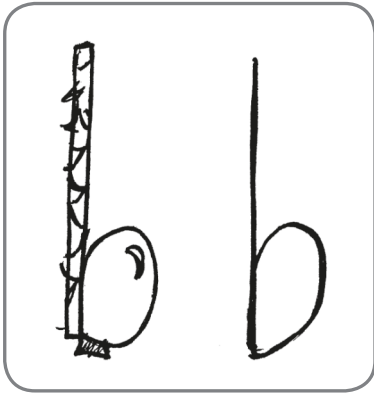
'Down' letters

Checklist: Liam's leg

- ✓ start at the top of his leg
- ✓ go down his long leg
- ✓ add a curl for the shoe to kick the ball

Checklist: tower

- ✓ start at the top of the tower
- ✓ draw a straight line down the tower
- ✓ add a curl at the bottom – then lift the pencil off the page
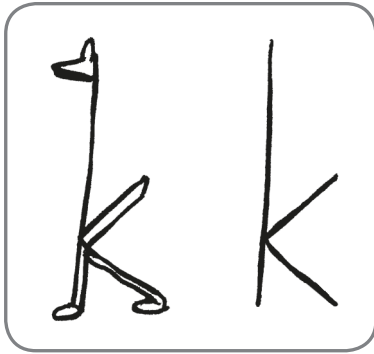- ✓ draw a straight line across the tower

Checklist: boot

✓ start at the top of the boot

✓ draw a straight line down the boot

✓ go round over the toe

✓ go back to the heel

Checklist: Polly Pirate

✓ start at the top of her plait

✓ draw down her long straight plait
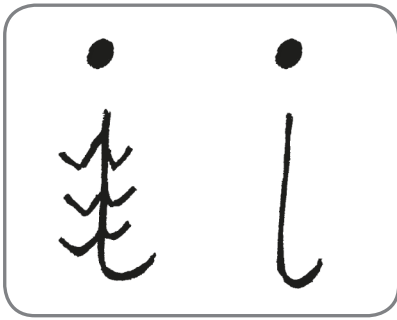
✓ go round over her face

✓ finish under her chin

Checklist: kangaroo

✓ start at the kangaroo's head

✓ draw down the long straight body – then lift the pencil off the page

✓ draw a straight tail to the body – two-thirds of the way down
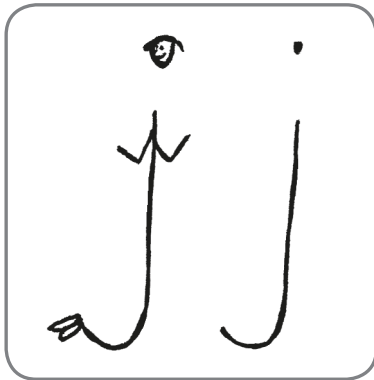
✓ draw a straight back leg from the body

Checklist: horse

✓ start at the horse's head

✓ draw down her long straight neck

✓ continue down to her feet

✓ go round her back

✓ draw a straight back leg

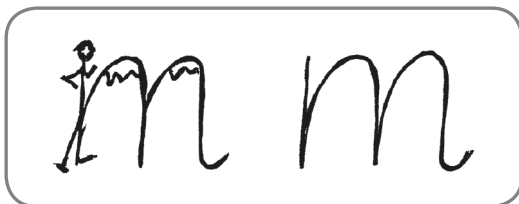✓ add a little curl of dust as the horse runs away

Checklist: insect

- ✓ start at the top of the insect's neck
- ✓ draw down the short straight body
- ✓ draw a curl for a small round tail
- ✓ add a little dot for the head

Checklist: jack-in-a-box

- ✓ start at the top of the jack-in-a-box's neck
- ✓ draw down the long straight body
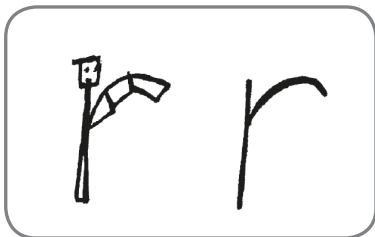- ✓ draw a smooth curl for the legs
- ✓ add a dot for the head

Checklist: Maisie and the mountains

- ✓ start at Maisie's head
- ✓ draw a straight body for Maisie
- ✓ go over the mountains – from Maisie's waist
- ✓ check the mountains are the same height as Maisie
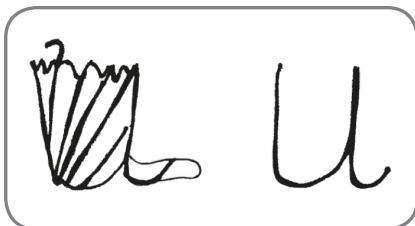- ✓ add a small curl for the grass

Checklist: Nobby and his net

- ✓ start at Nobby's head
- ✓ go straight down Nobby
- ✓ go over the net – from Nobby's waist
- ✓ check the net is the same height as Nobby
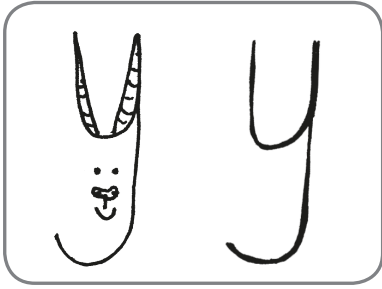- ✓ add a small curl for the grass

Checklist: robot

- ✓ start at the robot's head
- ✓ go straight down its body
- ✓ go over the robot's arm – from its waist

Checklist: umbrella

- ✓ start at the top of the handle
- ✓ draw down the straight line for the handle
- ✓ go round underneath the umbrella and back up the other side
- ✓ go down the umbrella
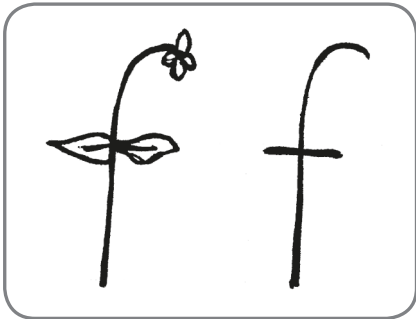- ✓ add a little curl for the puddle

Checklist: yak

✓   start at the top of the first horn

✓   draw down the straight line for the first horn

✓   go round underneath the horns

✓   draw a straight line up for the second horn

✓   go down and curl under its head

'Curly' letters

Checklist: egg

- ✓   draw up around the shell that needs to be cut off the boiled egg
- ✓   go round underneath the egg

Checklist: flower

- ✓   start at the top of the flower
- ✓   draw around and down the flower stem – then lift the pencil off the page
- ✓   draw a straight line across the leaves

Checklist: snake

- ✓   start at the snake's head
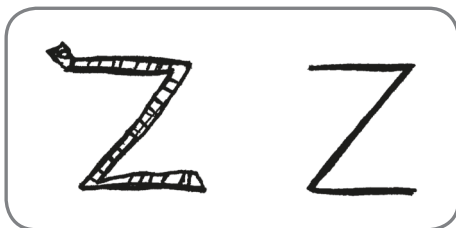- ✓   curl one way
- ✓   curl the other

'Zigzag' letters

Checklist: vulture

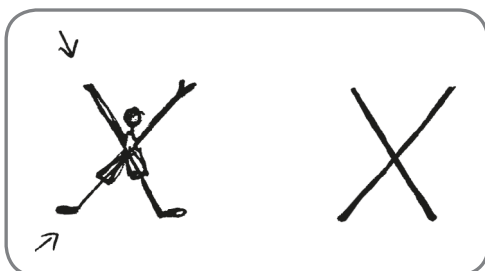✓   draw two straight lines for the wings – down, up

Checklist: worm

✓   draw four straight lines, all the same length – down, up, down, up

Checklist: zigzag

✓   draw three straight lines – across, diagonally back, across

Checklist: exercise

✓   start at the top left

✓   draw one straight line diagonally down – lift the pencil off the page

✓   start at the bottom left

✓   go diagonally up