

Help Sheet

0 – 25 Specialist Teaching and Support Service

How to help children with finger spacing

Background:

- Some children will need extra help with spacing when learning to write.

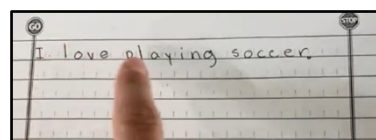
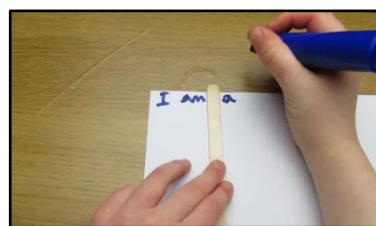
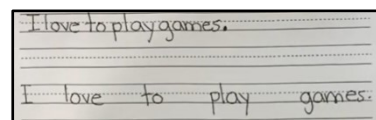
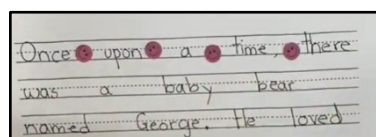
What you need to teach your children:

- That sentences are broken up into words.
- Words are made of letters which are grouped together.
- That spaces go between words in sentences to make them easier to read.



Ideas to help children with finger spacing:

- Clap out sentences and count the number of words.
- Ask the child to count the number of words they want to write in a sentence. The space between each finger can act as a prompt to use a space in their sentence writing.
- Give examples of poor and good spacing. Can they see which example has good spacing? You could put a sticker between each word to show good spacing.
- Ask the child to say “space” out loud after each word as they write.
- Try using a physical tool like a lolly stick, small coin, or pom-pom for children to place after a word to create a space.
- Model using spaces in sentences. When modelling, make mistakes and forget to space your words correctly to see if they can spot it.
- Use graph or [Stop & Go Writing Paper](#). This can help with both letter and word spacing.



Reference / Evidence base – informed by:

[Handwriting: using finger spaces - English - Learning with BBC Bitesize](#)