

## Handwriting- Queensland script

Last Wednesday I conducted a handwriting workshop for interested parents. At the workshop parents who attended requested that I provide information regarding the Queensland script with some of the key messages. Most of this information can also be found in the latest newsletter.

- *The Queensland Beginner's Alphabet* is a sloped style. A consistent slope is important for legibility.
- An advantage of *The Queensland Beginner's Alphabet* script is that it does not require students to learn a completely new script when moving to Queensland Modern Cursive.
- Queensland Modern Cursive script is best described as a linked print. When learning this script, students are guided through a number of joins that connect the letters together.

Importantly, when helping your children learn the printed script at home, it is important to remember the following.

- Correct pencil grip is important- although hard to change if a habit has been formed.



- Young writers need to internalise two simple movements: top to bottom and the four basic movements- straight, clockwise, anticlockwise and complex (double rotation.)

PM handwriting (Nelson: Centage) <https://cengage.com.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=IVe6oA6Kdtg%3D&portalid=5>  
The letters are grouped by basic movement. The four basic movements are:



straight-line  
letters:  
i t l x z



clockwise  
letters: m n  
h r k b p j



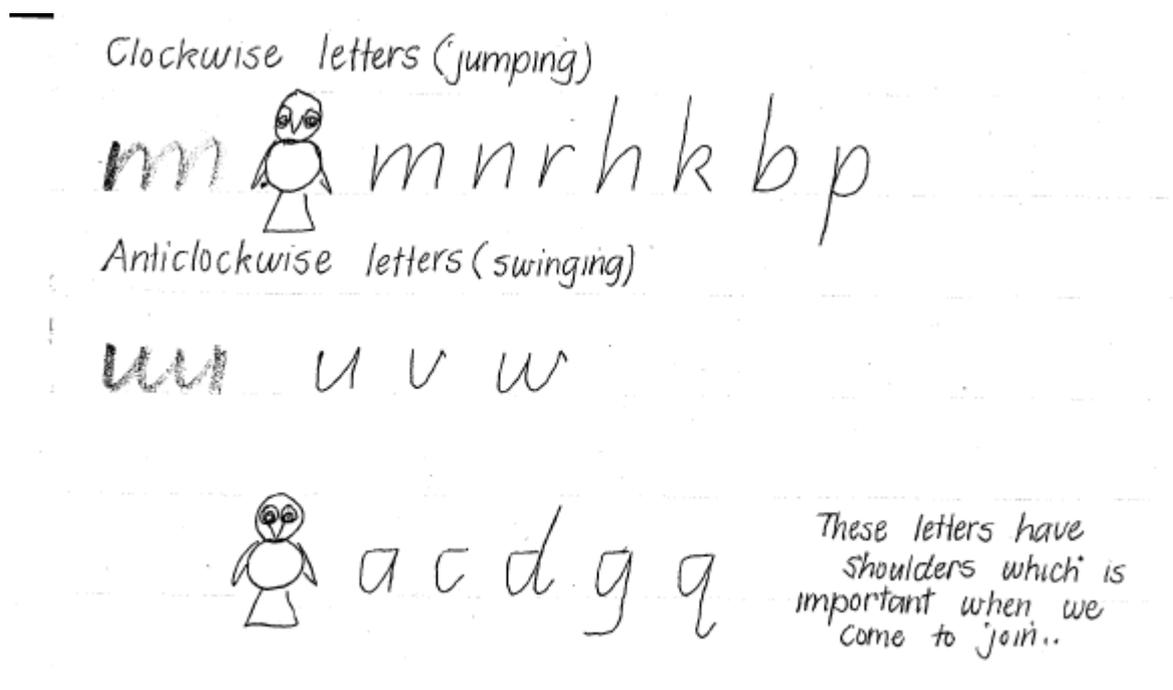
anti-clockwise  
letters: u v w a  
c d q f o e



double-rotation  
letters: g y s

- It is best for students to practise letters with the same movement patterns to develop confidence and automaticity. The following sequence is recommended
  - The straight letters (*i, t, l, x, z*) be taught first.
  - The clockwise letters that are based on children's natural scribble patterns be taught next.
  - Once the straight letters and clockwise letters are mastered, the anticlockwise letters that are more difficult to master are taught. Start with *u v w* before moving on to the letters with shoulders (*a, c, d, q*)

- Finish teaching with the most difficult to master- *g,y,s*.



- The spacing of the letters (e.g. head, body, tail) is important.

(PM handwriting (Nelson: Cengage) <https://cengage.com.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=IVe6oA6Kdtg%3D&portalid=5>)

### What is the purpose of the 'head, body, tail' character?

The 'head, body, tail' character is useful as a means of introducing students to writing lines, and correct letter placement within lines and in relation to each other.



- \*Body letters are *a,c,e,i.....*
- \*Body and head letters are *b,d,h,k.....*
- \*Body and tail letters are *g, p*

Students in prep and year 1 use the Queensland Print script. In Year 2 students begin to learn entries and exits. In Year 3 students begin to join their writing using the three joins- diagonal, horizontal and dropping on. From experience, students find the horizontal join the most difficult. Students need explicit teaching to learn how to drop on as there is a tendency to not want to lift their pencil from the page which is a feature of many other types of joined writing. Dropping on though is certainly the most fun, and when students are shown how to do it, they usually love it.

If you have any questions about handwriting, talk to your classroom teacher or come and see me.

Jenni Lang-McIntyre (Acting Deputy Principal, JPSS)