

CREATIVE MINDS NURSERIES WRITING CURRICULUM

(Preschool Group)

At CMN, we help children become confident early writers by combining the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** curriculum with the **Montessori approach** to hands-on, meaningful learning.

Our writing programme is designed to support **each child's natural development** while giving them the skills they need for school and life. Writing begins long before pencil and paper!

What Does Writing Mean in the Early Years?

Writing starts with:

- Building strong **hands and fingers** (physical development)
- Learning to **express thoughts and ideas**
- Understanding how **marks, symbols, and letters** carry meaning

We support this step-by-step, so children learn to enjoy writing and feel proud of what they can do.

Our Approach

Our writing curriculum follows the **EYFS literacy goals** and is led by experienced and trained early years staff under the guidance of **PGCE-qualified teacher**. We use **Montessori materials** and methods to support **child-led, purposeful writing**, always based in real-life experiences. Children are encouraged but never rushed – we focus on **confidence, enjoyment, and readiness**.

What We Teach and When

Age / Stage	What Your Child Will Be Learning	How We Teach It
3–4 years	Building hand strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making marks with meaning• Using language to describe what they draw/write• Drawing, tracing shapes and patterns

- Montessori practical life - Threading, pouring, playdough, pin punching (to build fine motor)

4–5 years

- Sandpaper letters for letter formation
- Forming letters (starting with ones they hear in their name)
- Writing some simple words and captions
- Telling stories through drawings and words | - Sandpaper letters for letter formation
- Moveable alphabet for building words
- Writing in context (e.g. shopping lists, birthday cards)
- Story trays and writing prompts based on real-life themes |

Montessori Writing Materials We Use

- **Sandpaper Letters** – to feel the shape of each letter while saying the sound
- **Sand Tray** – Writing in sand
- **Metal Insets** – to develop pencil control through tracing curved and straight lines
- **Moveable Alphabet** – to build words before writing with a pencil
- **Practical Life Activities** – pouring, pegging, squeezing – all preparing for writing tools

How Writing Is Integrated Every Day

- Children **choose writing freely** during play – writing labels, cards, menus, signs, etc.
- We create **inviting writing spaces** indoors and outdoors
- **Storytelling and drawing** are celebrated as part of the writing journey
- We provide **real reasons to write**, like name cards, thank-you notes, and recipes

By the End of Preschool (Age 5)

Most children will:

- Form some letters correctly
- Use their phonics knowledge to write simple words
- Write their name
- Talk confidently about their ideas and drawings

How Parents Can Help at Home

- Encourage drawing, colouring, and scribbling
- Let your child see you writing (shopping lists, notes)
- Talk about letter sounds using our phonics packs
- Celebrate their mark-making and early attempts

 **Please note that each child is unique and develops at their own pace. The information provided serves as a general guide; however, individual children may progress differently based on their specific needs.**