



Helping Your Child Use Finger Spaces in Their Writing

Key points

- Finger spaces are the small gaps children leave between words to make their writing easier for others to read.
- It is very common for children in Reception (the first year of primary school) and Year 1 to run their words together as they learn to write.
- Using a physical spacer, like a finger, helps children see exactly where one word ends and the next begins.
- Consistent spacing is a key part of early writing and helps children develop their overall literacy skills.
- Every child progresses at their own pace, and some may need more time or different tools to master spacing.

Things to try at home

- Encourage your child to use their index finger as a 'spacer' between words when they write a shopping list or a card.
- Play a game of 'Spot the Space' by looking at a favourite picture book together and pointing out the gaps between words.
- Use a 'spacer tool', such as a lolly stick or a small toy, to create a fun, physical gap between words during drawing and writing activities.
- Write a short sentence together and let your child help you decide if the spaces are wide enough to fit a 'sausage dog' between the words.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher, who can share the specific spacing techniques used in their classroom.
- The GOV.UK website for official information on the National Curriculum for English.