

Introduction

The **Handwriting Practice** books will help you to develop excellent handwriting skills. If you practise, you will be able to write neatly and present your work beautifully.

Handwriting Practice 1 helps you to form letters properly so that your writing is clear. It also helps you to use lines so that your letters are the right size. Before you start working through the book, write your name in the space on the first page.

Each activity page shows you what to do and gives you plenty of practice. Here are some extra hints that will help you to do your best.

- Use a good soft pencil. You can use coloured pencils for copying the handwriting patterns.
- Sit properly at a desk or table. Your handwriting will not be good if you are lying on the sofa.
- Take your time. Work carefully. Don't try to work through lots of pages at once. Short but frequent practice sessions are best.
- Practise a letter shape by tracing it in the air or on a piece of paper.
- Take pride in your handwriting. Keep this book as neat as you can. When you finish a page, look at it. If you are proud of it, show it to an adult. Then tick the box on the Contents page opposite.

A note for adult helpers

The Schofield & Sims **Handwriting Practice** books are designed for children to work through unaided. However, advice from an adult makes a child's practice even more effective. With this in mind, the **FOCUS** points at the foot of each page highlight key points for you, the helper, to look out for or explain to the child.

Handwriting style

Each school has its own handwriting style and some letters can be formed in different ways. For example:

- the letter **k** can be formed using straight lines, like this: **k**.
- the letter **f** can be formed like this: **f** – and in several other ways. However, the starting point and basic formation are the same in all of them.
- a 'flick' may be added to the end of some letters, such as **V** and **W**, in preparation for joined-up writing.

These differences and alternatives are noted, on their first occurrence, in the **FOCUS** points at the foot of the relevant page. Make sure you use the letter forms that are taught in the child's school.

On pages 30 to 32 of this book, a slightly different font is used for the child to copy. It slopes slightly to the right, although all the letter forms remain the same. This small change in appearance prepares the child for the joined-up writing that is practised in **Handwriting Practice 2**.