

# Introduction

The **Handwriting Practice** books will help you to develop excellent handwriting skills. If you practise, you will be able to present your work beautifully. **Handwriting Practice 2** helps you to learn basic handwriting joins so you can write in joined-up handwriting that is smooth, neat and easy to read. 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. 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. 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 or a topic, look at your work. 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, encouragement from an adult makes practice even more effective. With this in mind, **FOCUS** points at the foot of each page highlight key points for you to look out for.

### Guide lines

The early pages of this book include guide lines that help the child to form letters of the correct height:

- **x-height lines** indicate the desired height of small letters such as **o** and **v**
- **ascender lines** indicate the ideal height of tall letters such as **l**, **b** and **h**.

From page 23, ascender lines are gradually phased out, and from page 29 x-height lines are also omitted for some activities. From page 34 onwards, neither of these guide lines are included and the child is gradually prepared for writing on standard lined paper.

## Break letters

As explained above, this book helps children to practise joined-up handwriting. However, in most handwriting styles there are some letters (for example, **g**, **y** and **j**) that are routinely not joined to the next letter. These are known as **break letters** and they help achieve fluency and flow. Practice in the use of break letters is provided from page 34 onwards.

## Handwriting style

Each school has its own handwriting style and some letters can be formed in different ways. Particularly relevant to this book is the fact that, although break letters such as **p** and **b** that finish to the left are not usually joined to the next letter, in some styles they are. Other common break letters such as **x** and **z** may also be joined. Also, some styles join **t** from the cross bar, rather than from the baseline, as here. Joining from the base keeps the flow going. You might encourage the child to continue to the end of the word, then go back to dot each **i** and cross each **t**. Make sure you use the style that is taught in the child's school.