

## **Write Dance**

Handwriting is a difficult skill for young children to develop as it requires several things to be happening at the same time! To help the children with this we have adopted a Dutch philosophy which combines physical activity and making marks on paper. The philosophy has been published as a programme called "Write Dance" – our staff have been trained in Write Dance and are enthusiastic about it.



Children in the Reception Year and Year 1 enjoy "Write Dance" sessions. Each session begins with a story or rhyme. The children then make a pattern of large movements which are linked to the story. These movements start with straight lines and circles and progress to more complex patterns such as loops and figures of eight. "Write Dance" is often done in the hall as plenty of room is needed! The children frequently use ribbons, streamers and pom-poms to accompany their movements which they thoroughly enjoy! Back in the classroom, the children draw these shapes or patterns onto large paper using crayons. Over time the children gain control and confidence and so the shapes become smaller and smaller.

We have found "Write Dance" develops co-ordination and promote fluent, legible handwriting. The children thoroughly enjoy "Write Dance" and progress quickly as they are happy and they find it relaxing as well.

