Ready to write: answers and notes

What your child practised: sitting correctly at a table and holding a pencil comfortably and correctly (Year 1 handwriting).

Page 1 · Warm up

Start at the green dot; straight lines go from the top down.

Page 2 · Try it together

Ticks will vary. Aim for all four ticks without reminders by day 3.

Page 2 · A. Who is ready?

Leo. Ava is slouching with her head down: she needs to sit back tall. Mia's feet dangle under the chair: they need to be flat on the floor.

Page 3 · B. The right place

Tick the **middle** pencil: pinched just above the sharp part. The others are held too far from the point.

Page 3 · C. Steps in order

1 Feet flat · **2** Back tall · **3** Other hand holds the paper · **4** Pinch, flip and rest the pencil.

Page 3 · D. Patterns

Each starts at the green dot and goes left to right. Watch the grip as your child carries it on.

Challenge: No. A fist grip feels tight, but it makes small letters hard to control and tires the arm. Sam could try **pinch, flip, rest**: thumb and pointer finger pinch near the point, and the pencil rests on his middle finger.

Watch out for

- **Slouching or feet dangling.** Say "Ready, steady, write!" first. A box under the feet helps.
- **Fist grip.** Go back to pinch, flip, rest, and praise any try at a pinch.
- **Holding too far up.** Draw a small ring just above the sharp part as a "pinch spot".
- **Gripping too hard.** White fingertips or an aching hand mean the pinch is too tight: shake out and try gently.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Peg pinch:** squeeze clothes pegs open with thumb and pointer finger and clip them round the edge of a box.
- **Dough balls:** roll tiny balls of play dough between thumb and pointer finger.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Lower-case letters: start, direction and finish, shows where each letter starts and which way to go.