Despite our increasing reliance on technology, learning to write remains one of the important aspects of early schooling. Being able to write quickly, neatly and legibly enables children to participate more readily in classroom activities, and contributing to their academic learning.

Learning to write is a complex process, and many children experience a variety of challenges during the early stages. This session will provide a clear understanding of the many important skills that support handwriting development, together with a number of important activities, ideas and strategies for supporting your child to learn to write effectively. It is useful for these strategies to be implemented at school and at home to develop your child’s handwriting every day.

Topics will include:

- Developing hand skill and fine motor control
- Learning to hold the pencil
- How handwriting skills develop
- Sitting posture for writing and learning
- Writing effectively and efficiently

The University of the Sunshine Coast Child and Youth Occupational Therapy Clinic has joined with Talara Primary College since 2012 to support the learning of children who may experience challenges engaging in everyday tasks in the school environment. The clinic provides practical learning opportunities for occupational therapy students in their third and fourth years of study as they work individually or in groups with children from the school. Their work is overseen by the USC Clinical Placement Trainer (Child and Youth Clinic), Cate Hilly, who is an experienced, qualified occupational therapist.

**WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?**

Occupational Therapists (OTs) support people to do all the things that “occupy” their day. OTs have a significant role in facilitating development of all the necessary skills that enable the child to engage in learning at school. This focus includes being able to use their hands and bodies in skilled ways, handwriting and scissor skills, social skills, attention control, self-care and organisational skills. This will aim to develop personal independence and supports participation in play, sport and leisure.