

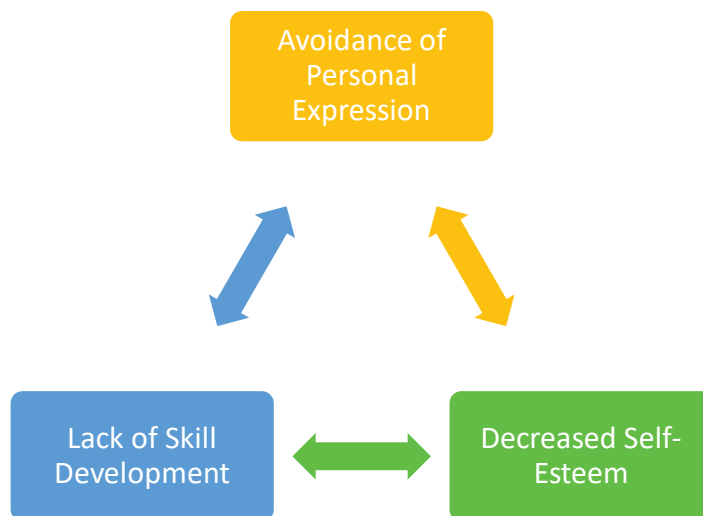
# Why Is Handwriting Still Such an Important Skill?

The idea that children do not need to be able to write legibly, that all important work will be done on a screen, has been repeatedly disproven in research studies. You don't need to do research; you only need to visit a Kindergarten-Grade 3 classroom.

All children in grades K-3 spend a substantial amount of class time doing handwritten work.

- **Young children do not have the ability to use mature keyboarding skills** necessary to generate a volume of written work and mathematic calculations sufficient for learning. How do we know this is true? Early elementary students with profound motor impairments require complex technology and intensive one-on-one training to develop foundational language skills without being able to write.
- **Kindergarteners are expected to write independently at the beginning of the school year** to complete more complex academic assignments earlier in the school year than in the past. They need better skills as education is pushed earlier, not fewer skills.
- **A developing brain** learns more easily when exposed to the interplay of tactile, motor, and visual skills used in handwriting during instruction in language and math skills.

## What happens when you don't skillfully teach handwriting?



- When children avoid handwriting, they are self-limiting opportunities to express thoughts and opinions, and share their interests with others.
- Children who minimize the amount of handwriting they produce for an assignment decrease their practice of essential language skills such as spelling and grammar.
- A sense of hopelessness about handwriting can occur; children don't see themselves as writers and see legible handwriting with an unattainable skill.