

Explore mark making for a purpose together with your little one, for example, creating a shopping list or birthday card.

There are lots of ways that you can support your child with their development of writing and mark making through play. Here are some ideas:



Mark Making with play dough



Mark making on foil

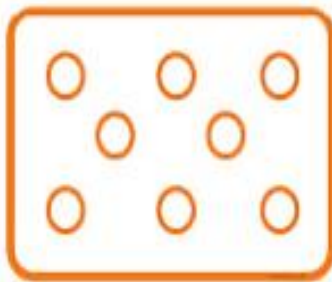


Painting with water



Chalking outside

Pre-writing skills are the fundamental skills children need to develop before they are able to write we have included some examples below. Confidently and accurately forming a selection of shapes will, in time support your child's letter formation.



Tips: when your child is mark making or drawing, talk to them, asking questions such as 'tell me about your writing / drawing?'

Encourage your child to write from left to write across the page.

Encourage your child to add details to their drawings e.g. eye lashes, fingers, pupils in the eyes.



The *tripod grip* is a *grip* using three fingers of the hand - the thumb, index and middle fingers. A child typically develops this *grip* around the age of three or four. It is a functional *grasp*, which is essential for a number of tasks, such as holding a pencil or fastening buttons.

Fine motor skill activities are a great way to support the development of your child's fine muscles and their hand / eye co-ordination, which in turn will support their marking making and writing. Here are some ideas:



Threading beads or pasta



Play dough disco

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOLR3pQt8zg>



Peg tweezers to pick up items

