



Learning to write

Help your child learn to write by encouraging 'mark making' with scribbles, patterns, lines, textures and shapes.

It's an exciting moment when your child begins to experiment with different-shaped scribbles and patterns. This is known as 'mark making'. It is the start of a journey towards being able to write and is a real developmental milestone.

By providing your child with a variety of mark-making opportunities you can help them develop imaginatively, creatively and physically. Mark making is important for many reasons. It is a visible way for children to tell stories, express feelings, and record what they have to say, solve problems and discover solutions - and sometimes it is just a chance for pure enjoyment.

Top tips for encouraging mark-making

- Take your mark-making outside and have fun getting messy!
- Get a big roll of old wallpaper, roll it out on the ground and secure the corners with something heavy. Experiment with different ways to make marks on the paper. Chalk on the drive or path also works really well.
- Why not try hand and foot prints, rolling toy cars through paint then taking them for a drive across the paper or making prints using natural objects such as fir cones or leaves?

Aim to be a good role model for your child. Children need to see adults writing so that they can pick up on how writers behave and understand that writing is a valuable activity. You could include them in writing the shopping list, for example.

In the beginning, mark making is more about motivation than ability and we want to show children that writing is fun!

