

Mark Making

Ready for School,
Ready for Life
Top Tips



Why do we encourage children to make marks?

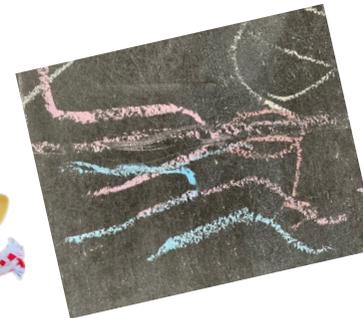
Mark making is a skill all children develop over a period of time. The process of mark making takes time to ensure children have a firm foundation for the skills needed to hold a pencil.



I can...

These skills include large body movements that require children to reach and stretch. It is vital that children are not forced to write from an early age without building the large and fine motor skills essential to hold a pencil.

- Use muscles in my hand and arms to make big movements
- Pick up different size objects using my pincer grip (thumb and index finger)
- Make marks using any part of my body



Ideas to promote early writing

- Use a finger in a tray covered in sand/sugar/foam/flour to make marks.
- Use big paint brushes to make marks outside on the ground/fence using water.
- Threading pasta shapes onto a piece of string or shoelace.
- Play with playdough.
- Peg clothes onto the clothes line to help develop muscles.
- Sticky tape pens onto the back of a toy truck/car so when the toy truck/car is driven, it makes marks on the paper.



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