

Mark Making !

Mark making, forming letter shapes and writing

This page has lots of mark making ideas for you to try at home! Pick and choose any you like – some are messy play ideas that needs a few household resources, some are simple ideas for drawing and mark making with your child. On the last page there are ideas for holding a pencil and forming letters (for when they are ready to try this). Remember, all children develop at different rates and all mark making is good!

Mark making activities from the BBC (click the picture to open the website):





Messy Mark Making Fun

Get a large tray such as a baking tray with fairly deep sides to use when doing messy play. Add some ingredients below to the tray and encourage your little ones to mix and feel and play. Remember to protect clothing, floor, tables and keep any valuables away from the mess. Have fun! (These ideas are adapted from “toucanlearn”)

- ✿ **Flour:** Put flour on the tray. Get some small toys to drive through the flour to make tracks. Mix with spoons and sprinkle with glitter to make it sparkly.
- ✿ **Flour and water:** Add some water to make it slushy and really messy! Use fingers to make marks, swirls and patterns. Great fun!
- ✿ **Shaving foam:** A cheap can of shaving foam can be sprayed on the tray and used to make patterns and marks with spoons and tools.
- ✿ **Jelly:** Make up some different colours and cut them up with blunt knives, mix them and squelch them together.
- ✿ **Pasta:** Different shaped pasta and rice can be mixed, sorted and sprinkled. Let the children use their imagination. Make necklace by threading onto string if you have time.
- ✿ **Cornflour:** Mix cornflour and water to make a heavenly gloopy, sticky messy substance to play with.
- ✿ **Sand:** Make a beach, add water in a bowl for sea and mix it all together. Make letter shapes and patterns in the sand or drive through some favourite toys or cars.
- ✿ **Water play:** Put some water in a sink or old baby bath and use it to play! Fill containers, make showers, sprinkle with glitter, use spoons and ladles and have fun! Add ducks or some dolls to wash.



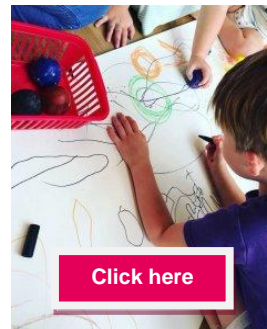
More Mark Making Ideas

Click on each picture to access the links

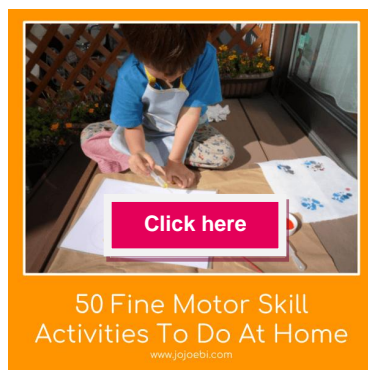
Messy mark making fun:



A blog on fun messy and clean mark making activities to try at home:



Fun ideas for developing fine motor skills at home:



Holding a pencil - tips for when they are ready!

If you want to try some writing activities try making shapes like zig zags, swirls and circles using felt tip pens, chalks, crayons. Any kind of mark making is good, they don't have to be holding a pencil and writing at this age! If they *are keen* to do some writing, you might want to try helping your child hold a pencil correctly in a 'tripod grip'. If they are reluctant to write, please do not encourage them to do so; young children should only write when they are ready.



Do not worry if your child is not yet using a tripod grip – we all develop at different paces!

This guide shows the correct formation of letters – if you want to write out any letter sounds for your child, start on the red dot and follow the direction of the arrow. Please only form lower case letters (not capitals) apart from at the start of their name.

Letter Formation Practice Sheet

a b c d e f g h i

j k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z