


Writing Tips



The following ideas will all help with the foundations for early writing. They will give children opportunities to develop their muscles, co-ordination and mark making. All activities in which young children develop their hand strength and finger skills are important steps in the early writing journey. When children do begin to mark make, this should be encouraged and praised. Asking children about their drawing or writing is also vital, since this gives children the ability to give meaning to their marks.

 Give your child lots of two handed activities, like stirring and whisking, so that they can choose which will be their dominant hand for writing.



Let your child help you around the house, pegging out clothes, using a dustpan and brush, washing up, wiping the table and squeezing out a sponge.



Let your child cut out pictures from magazines, comics, catalogues and old cards.



Cook together - let your child peel and chop, mash up food, put cake mixture into cases or spread butter on bread.



Have lots of different materials to cut and stick so your child can make pictures, patterns and models.



Build with blocks and interlocking blocks, like Lego, to make towers and buildings.



Make people, animals and other objects from play dough.



Play throwing and catching games together.



Show your child how to use tools such as screwdrivers and spanners.



Put lots of different sized containers in the bath for your child to fill and pour.



Help your child use tweezers or tongs to pick up and move small objects from place to place, such as putting a raisin in each section of an ice cube tray.



Put hair gel, bath cream, corn flour and water or paint in a sealed, plastic bag and let your child make marks in it with their finger.



Give children water and a paint brush to draw on the ground outside.



Paint or draw with large brushes, chalks and crayons on paper, shower curtains plastic table clothes or outside: any lines or scribbles are great!



Mix corn flour, water and food colouring to make a paste and pour into a flat tray to encourage children to draw or write letters from their name.



Use a finger, paintbrush or stick to trace into a tray filled with sand or another fine material like glitter, sugar or rice.



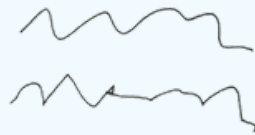
Emerging Writing

The twelve stages of emerging writing are shown below; all these movements are important stages of development. Where ever possible encourage children to give a meaning to their marks; whether this is a picture or an early attempt at writing.



1. Scribble Stage

(Starting point any place on the page)



2. Scribble

(Left to right progression)



3. Mock Letters

(Can be personal or conventional)



4. Letter String

(Left to right and progressively downwards)

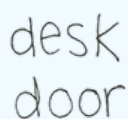


5. Groups of letters with space in between to resemble words

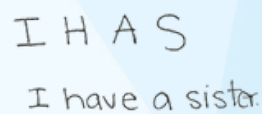


6. Picture Labelling

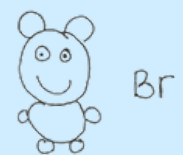
(Matching beginning letter to sound)



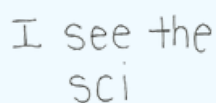
7. Copies Environmental Print



8. Uses first letter of a word to represent the word



9. Uses beginning letter and ending letter to represent word

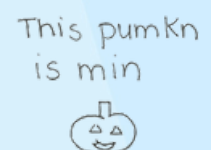


10. Hears Middle Sounds

(Writes word with beginning, middle and ending letters)



11. Phase Writing



12. Whole Sentence Writing