

Warwick Nursery School



Parents Leaflet 3: Mark Making

Why is mark making important?

1. Your child's marks are their first steps into writing. Some time after their 3rd birthday is when most children begin to understand the difference between drawing and writing.
2. Making marks on a small and larger scale develops children's fine and gross motor skills.
3. Mark making encourages children's creativity and imagination.
4. Mark making gives children a new outlet to express their feelings and share their thoughts non-verbally.
5. Even if it looks like scribbling, children's mark making is giving them confidence to have a go at writing later.

Follow your child's lead...

**“You can
make
anything by
writing.”**

C.S. Lewis

**“The desire to
write grows with
writing.”**

Desiderius Erasmus



**“The beautiful part of
writing is that you don’t have
to get it right the first time,
unlike say a brain surgeon.”**

Roger Cormier

**“Breathing book
molecules helps
you write. It’s a
fact.”**

Ame Dyckman

Your child will develop at their own rate and in their own way.

How can you support your child's mark making

1. Praise them for having a go - children can quickly lose interest if they feel that they're being corrected too often. The process is more important than the product.
2. Encourage them to throw balls, climb, run, jump - their hand-eye coordination and muscles in hands, arms and shoulders, as well as core strength, needs developing for them to be able to have control over a pencil.
3. Let them see you writing for a purpose - e.g. shopping lists, notes, birthday cards - and have a go themselves.
4. Don't worry too much about pencil grip or making children write letters small.

5. When your child starts to show an interest in writing letters, show them how to write lower case (e.g. a,b,c), rather than capital (A,B,C), letters.
6. Make mark making fun - use different resources and start on a large scale (e.g. chinks on garden paths, making marks in flour on a kitchen work surface).
7. Encourage them to have a go at doing up zips and buttons to help develop fine motor control.
8. Drawing anti-clockwise circles, lines and zigzags are all important shapes to make to support writing development.
9. Be wary of encouraging children to 'overwrite' or trace letters as it can make them anxious about having a go at writing independently for fear of getting it 'wrong'.

Ideas to try at home:

Get children helping you with everyday tasks (e.g. folding clothes, pouring drinks, drying up cups) to help strengthen muscles in their hands and develop hand-eye coordination.

Play games such as 'Kerplunk' and 'Pick up Sticks' and do jigsaws together to support the development of fine motor control.

Sprinkle flour onto the kitchen table or work surface and use a finger or a brush to make marks in it.

Ask children to tell you a story and write it for them. Seeing you write will encourage them to want to have a go too.

Old wallpaper is great for making marks on a large scale! Roll some out on the floor and let children make marks on it. Try doing circles, zigzags and lines together, or draw roads etc to play on.

Pick up peas with their fingers one at a time and move them from one bowl to another. This is great for supporting fine motor control.



Ideas to try out and about:

"Paint" the garden fence and paths with large decorating paintbrushes and water. Have fun making zig zag marks, lines and circles together.

Take advantage of nature, such as mud and snow. Use sticks to make marks in them on a large scale and then watch their marks change and disappear.

Balance on play equipment at the park, low walls etc to support children to develop their core strength, which is essential for pencil control.

Ribbons on sticks are great for making large circles and patterns in the air with.

Water flowers in the garden with a spray bottle - it's great for building up strength in children's hands.

Take paper and crayons into the garden or park and have a go at bark rubbing on trees. Look together at the patterns they have made.



Useful information:

Nursery School planning boards (inside the cloakroom) give ideas for how to support your child's learning at home. Subscribe too to our app and follow us on Facebook for further ideas.

Visit www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups for more ideas and information.

For safety reasons, always supervise your child during their play. Remember, small objects can be choking hazards. Ensure that they thoroughly wash their hands after playing outside or with 'messy' resources inside.

Warwick Nursery School
Coventry Road
Warwick
CV34 4LJ

Tel: 01926 492701
Email: admin1022@welearn365.com
www.warwicknurseryschool.org