

## Mark Making

Have your camera at the ready to record your child/ren's creations

Making marks helps to prepare your child for writing; encourage them to make big circles, straight lines and zig zags as they experiment. The more variety you offer the more interesting it will be.

Mark Making can be an indoor or outdoor activity – why not roll out a long length of wallpaper in the garden and let your child/ren make a hug picture.

Why not use a long stick or your spade to make marks in the sand at the beach.

CBeebies offer some great guidance: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/its-not-just-scribbling-its-mark-making>

You can use all sorts of tools to 'make marks':

- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ Crayons – chunky or thin
- ✓ Felt pens – washable are best ☺
- ✓ Paint – you can use brushes, rollers, cotton buds, fingers or be even more creative by using toy cars to drive along or print with potatoes or pine cones or any other item your child can think of.
- ✓ Water and brushes are great for outside – make marks on the walls, paths, patio or anywhere you can reach
- ✓ Chalk – on a blackboard or outside on the ground
- ✓ Dry wipe pens on a white board
- ✓ Use your fingers to make marks in a tray of flour, shaving foam or sand
- ✓ Online touch screen or mouse activities

Use different materials for making marks on too:

- ✓ Paper – in all shapes and sizes and colours – you could cut out a large car, flower, star, animal or whatever your child likes best – then they can make marks all over it to decorate it or fill in the missing bits
- ✓ Wallpaper or backing paper – the bigger the better
- ✓ Card
- ✓ Cardboard boxes - especially a large one – let your child make marks inside and outside
- ✓ Blackboard or black paper – especially good with chalk or chalk pens
- ✓ Whiteboards (if you have a laminator you can make your own board)

Let your child's imagination run free as they experiment and practice

If you would like to do more precise mark making to help with pencil control there are plenty of books available including 'write on wipe off' ones which can be used over again. Or you could make simple mazes for your child to follow – the white board is a great way to do this.

There are also a few good websites which offer printable resources:

Lots of mazes on dltk - <http://www.dltk-kids.com/type/mazes.htm>

A whole variety of ideas at Bic Kids: <http://kids.bickids.com/uk/choose-your-activity/handwriting/all>

Another variety on Sparklebox: <http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/literacy/writing/letter-formation/pencil-control.html#.V1r3Omf2bmS>