



TOP TIPS...



à Make mark making and writing fun—no pressure! Encourage your child to 'pretend' to write as this is how their writing emerges naturally.

à It is very important to develop your child's arm and hand muscles and their fine motor control ready for later writing.

à Follow what your child is interested in and use this to support their mark making. For example, if they love cars, make number plates and make maps.

à Find real-life opportunities to write—e.g. shopping lists for the supermarket run.

à Remember that children develop at their own rates.

à Value and praise is a vital part of any child's development. Value and praise all of their marks—drawing, pretend writing, muddled up letters and more clear writing are all valuable!

à Mark make on small and large scales both inside and outside.

à Encourage your child to explore with all of their senses so they can feel the letters as well as see them.

If you have any questions or would like some more tips on how to support your child outside of school, please come and speak to me.



Woolmore
Primary School



Parent's information leaflet

The importance of mark making

First marks

Your child will notice adults around them reading and writing and they will want to copy them. Mark-making is the first step towards writing. Mark-making in the early stages is closely linked to physical development. The more opportunities your child has to develop large and small movement in their arms, hands and fingers, the easier it will be to make marks with a variety of tools.

Children begin their journey towards writing, not by producing letters and words but by making marks.

Learning to hold a pencil, pen or paintbrush can be difficult for young children. They need to develop hand-eye coordination and build up the muscle control in their hands.

This is developed naturally through other sorts of play e.g. throwing balls, climbing up a slide and play dough.

Beginning to write

As children's mark making develops, you may see letters that you recognise. Children usually learn to write their name first because it is meaningful to them. The letters may not be perfect and may not even be in the correct order, however this is a fantastic breakthrough in your child's writing journey.

The importance of mark making

Meaningful Marks

The first marks children make are usually big circular marks and straight lines. You may think this is just a scribble, but it is an important step as children are trying out new things and seeing what happens.

The marks your children make will slowly begin to have meaning to them.

At first mark making is a blend of drawing and writing. Children like to use their new skills and can understand the difference between drawing and writing at around three years.

Children like to act out writing in role play situations e.g. writing shopping lists, pretending to be a teacher. Please encourage this mark making and do not dismiss it. Even though you may not be able to read it, your child knows exactly what they have written.

Communication and language

Please remember to encourage your child's communication and language when they are mark making. Speak to them (in either English or your home language), and ask them to explain what they are doing.