

## **Pre-Handwriting – Developmental Continuum**

## **Fine Motor Skills Scissor Skills Pre-writing Skills** Can use two hands Is able to hold scissors Scribbles randomly on together, e.g. to open lids appropriately paper on jars Uses a dominant hand Is able to open and Scribbles spontaneously in and an assist hand close scissors using a different directions, e.g. controlled action straight line, circle during activities Imitates simple marks after Is able to control and Is able to hold the paper manipulate small tools watching an adult, e.g. and make random cuts effectively diagonal line Copies simple shapes that Uses tripod grasp for Is able to cut in a more intricate tasks, e.g. involve one movement, e.g. straight line picking up small items circle Uses tripod grasp to Imitates shapes that involve Is able to cut out simple manipulate small objects, multiple movements, e.g. shapes e.g. rolling play-doh balls Uses tripod grasp to Child copies shapes that Is able to cut along accurately put things have multiple movements, curved lines, e.g. circles together, e.g. threading e.g. □ X Gets faster at tasks they Is able to cut out more Child has an understanding have practised, e.g. complicated shapes with of movement concepts, e.g. posting coins into a slot straight and curved lines up, down, around Child is ready for handwriting instruction

- Occupational Therapy advice sheets available on skill development for each of these areas
- A child's posture and seating during pre-writing activities can impact on their performance
- It is important that a child has lots of opportunity to develop their gross motor & co-ordination skills