

# Mark Making Matters

**“very young children who are given rich opportunities to explore making marks within an encouraging emotional environment will become confident and competent communicators, both orally and on paper...”**

*The National Strategies Early Years, (2008); Mark Making Matters: Young children making meaning in all areas of learning and development*

## Enabling Environments

Provide a range of interesting mark making surfaces indoors and outdoors

- a variety of sizes/colour/shape of card/paper
- plastic lids
- black/whiteboards (fixed and portable)
- transparent sheets/perpex
- tracing paper
- a variety of types of paper(lined/squared/dotted/plain)
- textured paper
- fabric
- shower curtains
- large rolls of paper
- wrapping paper
- a range of different heights and angles

Provide a range of interesting mark making tools (think outside the box)

- thick/thin pencils
- thick/thin crayons
- coloured pencils/pens
- highlighters
- oil pastels
- chalk
- variety of paint brushes and paints (poster/water/powder)
- candels
- sponges/rollers  
figurines)
- lolly sticks
- a variety of brushes of different sizes/coarseness
- cotton buds/reels
- natural materials (sticks, leaves, sprigs, pine cones)
- feathers
- old cards
- kitchen utensils (mashers, chopsticks, cookie cutter)
- cars/trucks
- small world characters (dinosaurs, animals,

Additional resources to promote mark making and writing across the playroom

- a variety of notebooks/pads
- assortment of envelopes/stamps
- diaries/calendars/address books
- an assortment of greeting cards
- postcards
- invitations
- hole punch
- staplers/paper clips
- scissors
- string/wool/ribbon
- labels/post-its
- clipboards
- glues sticks
- sellotape/masking tape
- folders
- rulers
- post box
- stampers
- clay tools
- examples of environmental print \*

\* Provide materials/examples which reflect a cultural spread, so that children see symbols and marks with which they are familiar, e.g. Chinese script on a shopping bag.

# Promoting Mark Making Throughout Your Playroom



## Construction

- Paper – large rolls and sheets to support planning and designing
- Range of pens and pencil
- Clipboards
- Plans and diagrams
- Noticeboard
- DIY catalogues
- Order forms
- Notebooks



## Malleable

- Variety of substances – cornflour, non-allergenic shaving foam, crazy soap, dough, clay
- A range of cutting tools
- A range of natural materials for imprinting - stones, sticks, leaves, pine cones, pasta



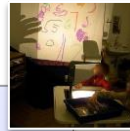
## Sand/water/mud

- Range of plastic grouting tools Lolly sticks
- Twigs
- Feathers
- Buckets of water and a range of tools, including paint-brushes, rollers, artists' brushes, sponges and dish mops
- Colouring or glitter to add to water
- Collections of containers for squirting or pouring
- Garden hose and clear plastic tubing



## Home corner/Role play

- Pots of pens and pencils
- Diary or calendar
- Calculator
- Notebook
- Sticky notes and sticky labels
- Forms and junk mail
- Variety of paper, envelopes, postcards and greetings cards
- Noticeboard
- Phones – mobile and landline and phone book/address book



## Digital Technologies

- Overhead projector – variety of transparent, translucent and opaque objects in a variety of colours; transparency paper and overhead or dry-wipe pens
- Photographs – speech bubbles, think bubbles, captions, living books, speaking books
- iPad apps



## Outdoors

- Buckets of water and a range of tools (paint brushes, rollers, sponges, mops)
- Chunky chalks
- Blackboards and whiteboards
- Large rolls of paper
- Shower curtains/fabric sheet
- Clipboards
- Portable writing toolkit – filled with resources such as sticky notes, masking tape, selection of pens and pencils, selection of paper and envelopes
- Mud kitchen utensils
- Natural materials - stones, sticks, pine cones etc
- Maps
- Spray painting – water spray

# The Responsive Adult: Our role in promoting children's mark making

## The adult needs to...

