# Literacy for ALL in our Playrooms







Mark Making and Emergent Writing 2024-25









# **House-Keeping**

Fire Alarm

Parking

Refreshments

Facilities





# **Tasks**

 Use the writing environment tool to audit your spaces for writing.

 Identify opportunities for early mark making in your establishment: Bring some examples of interesting mark making tools.







## Aims

 To deepen our knowledge of emergent writing and mark making progression

 To consider current provision for mark making and emergent writing in our establishments.







## Content

- The development of mark making and emergent writing
- Importance of names
- Marks matter
- Strategies for mark making and emergent writing









# Mark Making





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## Discussion

What is mark making?

What is writing?











# What is mark making and emergent writing?

Put simply.....

Mark making is the creation of different patterns, lines, shapes and textures

Emergent writing is a child's first attempts at writing









# Discussion

What are you currently doing in your setting to promote both mark making and writing indoors and out?



















# Why is mark making important?

 Opportunity to explore imaginatively, physically and creatively

Opportunity to test ideas and extend play

Foundation that underpins a child's ability to write







# When does mark making begin?

- The foundations for becoming a confident writer begin at birth
- Writing begins long before a child can hold or control pencils or pens.
- All children will need to develop their muscles for writing
- Development of these muscles can be influenced by many factors e.g a child's sex, opportunities for experience, motivation, interest















Mark Making

developing hand – child around 4 ½ years old



developed
hand –
child around
7 years old













"Understanding the link between gross and fine motor skill development is crucial for practitioners. Children are better equipped to make fine motor movements if they also have

adequate opportunity to develop their gross motor skills. Both are linked. In the development of writing, children need to not only be provided with a wide range of mark-making opportunities when they are small, but also be able to explore other



experiences such as manipulating clay or using peg boards, completing jigsaws or sewing to fully develop the small muscles in their hands."

Realising the Ambition p70









	Pre-Literate	
Stage	Stage Description	TIME
Scribble	Starting point any place on th page, resembles drawing large circular strokes and random marks that do not resemble print or	17-€ OVW
	communicate a message.	"I am happy."
Symbolic	Starting point any place on page, pictures or random strokes/marks with an intended	/ Me 101"
	message	ΛμΛι
Directional Scribble	Scribble left to right direction, linear, intended as writing that communicates a meaningful message/idea.	"I am playing."
Symbolic / Mock Letters	Letter-like formations that may resemble letters but isn't intentional, interspersed with numbers and spacing is rarely present.	0/00/00

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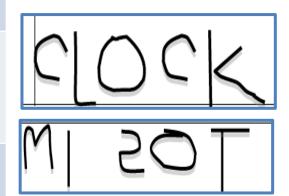
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Emergent					
Stage	Stage Description				
Strings of Letters	Long strings of various letters in random order, may go from left to right, uses letter sequence perhaps from name, usually uses capital letters, may write same letters in many ways.				
Groups of Letters	Groupings of letters with spaces between to resemble words				
Labelling Pictures	Matching beginning sounds with the letter to label a picture				
Environmental Print	Copies letters/words from environmental print, reversals common, uses a variety of resources to facilitate writing. This may include own name.				







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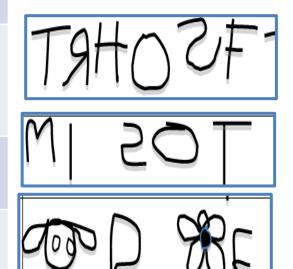
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# Progression in Drawing and Mark Making



I can 'scribble' in circular strokes and random marks.



I can make geometric shapes and controlled 'scribbles' within my mark making.



I can draw pictures with recognisable features i.e. human figure.



I can draw human figures with body and limbs.



I can draw more detailed pictures and figures.











# Importance of Names





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# What is in a name?

Why is a name important?





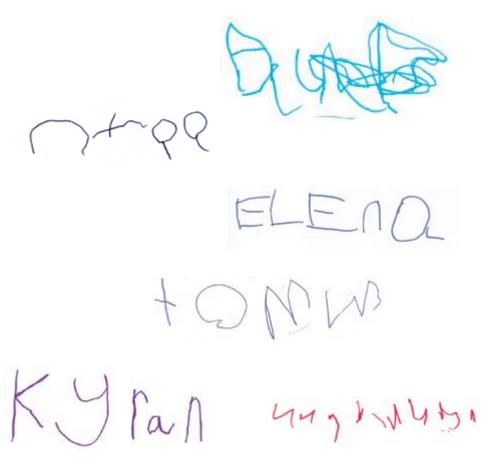








- Children's earliest mark making will often involve their name or age as these are of particular significance
- Empowerment
- Identity
- Beginning with lines and curves moving to initial letter







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# What is in a name?

 Discuss examples of where in the indoor/outdoor setting children have the opportunity to find, recognise and write their names?













# Marks Matter





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# 3 years and 7 months

What is notable?

















# 3 years and 7 months

What is notable?

Keon forms zigzags,
vertical arcs, colour
blocks, spots and an
enclosure line. He
labels this as;
"my name and some
fireworks"









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# 4 years and 1 month

What is notable?

















# 4 years and 1 month

## What is notable?

Keon with support is now writing his full name. In this example he tells a story to the practitioner while drawing.

"This is a crocodile. I done a dark river...
now the crocodile is wearing stripy hair.
Now the crocodile has got BIG hair.
Now its got BIG, BIG hair and now a
tail... I'm painting."

This is significant development as he now uses extended narratives, giving story meaning to his marks.





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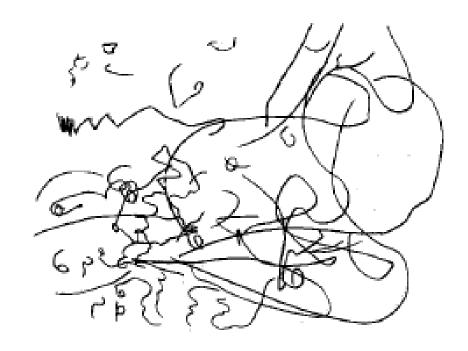
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What is notable?



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## Sam and the calculator (3 years 6 months)

Sam has been watching his friend Bradley play with a calculator and occasionally writing on a piece of paper as he presses the buttons. Sam wants to be a part of this play and when he has fetched a calculator for himself, the two boys talk about the numbers they press, often choosing their age number: '3'. Sam decides to make marks of his own on a piece of paper as they play.

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What is notable?



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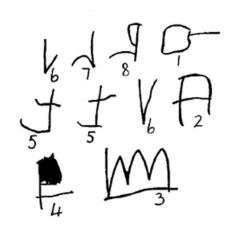




## Alex's numbers (4 years 11 months)

Alex loves writing and, on this occasion, chooses to explore numerals using his own symbols. He adapts the symbol '6' for '7' and '8' and uses elements of standard letters and of numerals he knows. He is consistent in repeating '5' and uses the first letter of his name to stand for '2'.

Alex's explorations illustrate just how much he already knows about written symbols and number, showing that Alex knows his numbers. He soon comes to understand and use standard written numerals.



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What will I do now?

What did I notice? (see/hear)

child-centred pedagogy in practice 'Listen with your eyes and ears' observation, interpretation and What does the child's actions, emotions and words tell you about their development and ocumentation of learning Are your methods of documentation informative and meaningful to you, the child, their family and other practitioners? Sensitive interactions honing the skill of stepping in and stepping back Flexible experiences learn from the child to inform practice Variety of spaces responsive and intentional outdoors and inside planning facilitation Informed by the child's actions, emotions and words What needs to stay to reinforce development and learning? What needs to change to inspire new learning and development?

What does this tell me/what does this mean?

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## Writing - **Experiences and Outcomes**

I enjoy **exploring** and **playing** with the patterns and sounds of language and can use what I learn. LIT 0-01a / LIT 0-11a / LIT 0-20a

As I **play** and learn, I enjoy **exploring** interesting materials for writing and different ways of recording my experiences and feelings, ideas and information. LIT 0-21b

Enjoyment/Choice

I **explore** sounds, letters and words, discovering how they work together, and I can use what I learn to help me as I read or write ENG 0-12a / LIT 0-13a / LIT 0-21a

Tools

Tools

I enjoy **exploring** events and characters in stories and other texts and I use what I learn to invent my own, sharing these with others in imaginative ways. LIT 0-09b / LIT 0-31a

**Creating Texts** 

Within **real** and **imaginary** situations, I share experiences and feelings, ideas and information in a way that communicates my message. LIT 0-26a

Organising/Using Information









	Early Level Tracker 1											
iting- Shared, Guided and Independent	Enjoyment & Choice LIT 0-1a LIT 0-11a LIT 0-20a	Have opportunities to write, inspire by what they have listened to, watched or read	d Explore a variety of writi materials for purposeful n making	- 1	Develop mark making in different contexts and share what they have created  Begin to explore creating texts in meaningful contexts through play based and outdoor learning			texts in I contexts based and	Begin to explore imitating writing letters and words and use the print in their environment as a stimulus			Begin to develop pride and confidence in writing own name
	Tools for Writing ENG 0-12a LIT 0- 13a LIT 0-21a/b	Begin to be aware that words and writing go in a left to right direction	egin to be aware that words are made up of letters	to mark sticks an	riety of tools a make e.g. d fingers in e sand	Begin to explore				Develop gross and fine motor skills and pencil control		Use own drawings to retell a story and show their knowledge of a text
	Organising and Using Information <u>LIT 0-26</u> a	With support, plan by thinking about, verbalising, acting out and/or drawing what they want to write about	Convey ideas through play understanding of real life po writing e.g. shopping	urposes fo	r I	o share feelings a stories and illusi	llustrations from			to use signs and labels he environment in own exts and drawings		Contr
Writ	Creating Texts  LIT 0-9a ENG 0-31a	Begin to invent own stories and characters and share these ideas with others through mark making and talk	Begin to describe chara and explain likes and di using appropriate vocak	slikes	explain like	escribe settings a es and dislikes us riate vocabulary	sing stories using a combination of			tion of	Be able to give meaning to own drawings and mark making	

# **Emergent Writing Skills**

## E's and O's

I enjoy exploring and playing with the patterns and sounds of language and can use what I learn.

## LIT 0-01a / LIT 0-11a / LIT 0-20a

I explore sounds, letters and words, discovering how they work together, and I can use what I learn to help me as I read or write.

### LIT 0-13a / LIT 0-21a

As I play and learn, I enjoy exploring interesting materials for writing and different ways of recording my experiences and feelings, ideas and information.

### LIT 0-21b

Within real and imaginary situations, I share experiences and feelings, ideas and information in a way that communicates my message.

#### LIT 0-26a

I enjoy exploring events and characters in stories and other texts and I use what I learn to invent my own, sharing these with others in imaginative ways.

LIT 0-09b / LIT 0-31a

I can hold a pencil using a palmer grasp to mark make.



I can make marks using a wide range of materials.

I can hold a pencil using a digital pronate grasp to mark make.

I can manipulate and use small tools.

I can use small tools with control and accuracy.

I can create my own

drawings and talk about

them.

I can draw human

figures with body and

limbs.

I can hold a pencil with a tripod grasp to mark make.

I can make marks with control.

I can make marks during play.

I can 'scribble' in circular strokes and random



I can 'scribble'

from left to right

to represent my

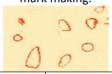
'writing'.

I can differentiate my drawings from 'writing' by long strings of marks.



I can 'write' during play and explain what my

I can make geometric



shapes and controlled 'scribbles' within my mark making.

'writing' means



I can write letter like formations and symbols.



I can 'write' for a range of different purposes i.e. to label, create stories. write letters/cards

I can draw pictures with recognisable features i.e. human figure.



I can copy some letters from my name.



random letters.

I can copy my name and words that have been written for me.

I can ask an adult to scribe my thoughts and feelings when I draw and create my own stories.

I can draw more detailed pictures and figures.



I can write my name.

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# Mark Making and Emergent Writing throughout the Learning Environment



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- I think .... I see..... I wonder....
- Strive for 5 Extending Conversations
- Model the process of spoken words becoming written words.
- Celebrate all attempts at emergent writing.
- Provocations for mark making and writing







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## **Labelling Pictures**



 Children using knowledge of letters, environmental print or adult scribing to write about their drawings.









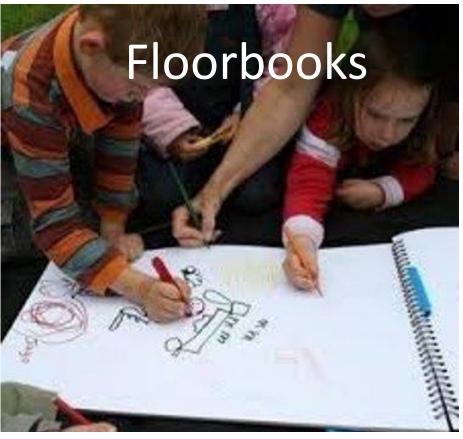
















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Experiences can be intentionally planned and adult-led or spontaneous and child-led.





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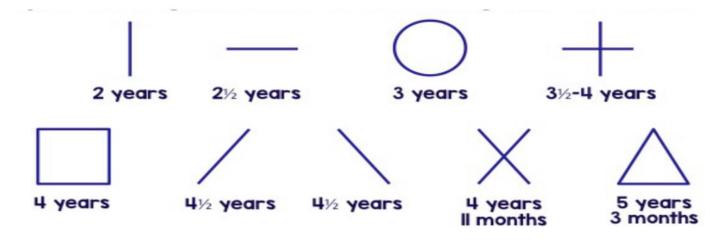






### The Beery – Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual- Motor Integration

Writing readiness can be guided by the child's ability to write these first 8 to 9 shapes as these form the foundations of all letters and numbers.



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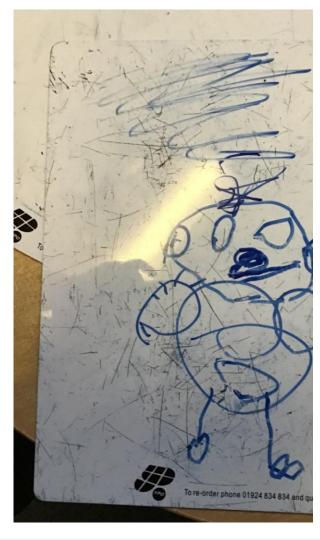












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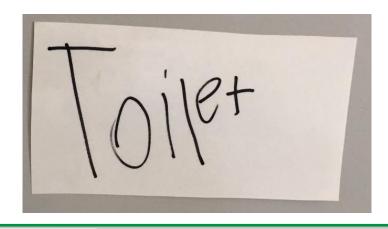


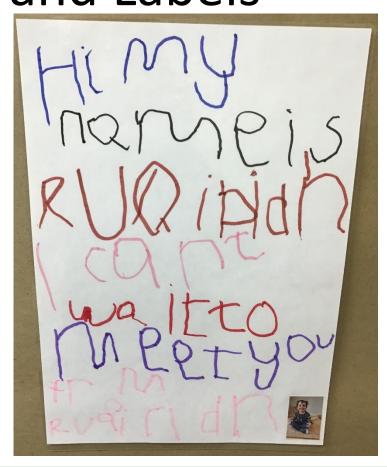




### **Creating Signs and Labels**

 Using environmental print or adult scribing to create sings and labels for the nursery.











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#### **Environmental Print**



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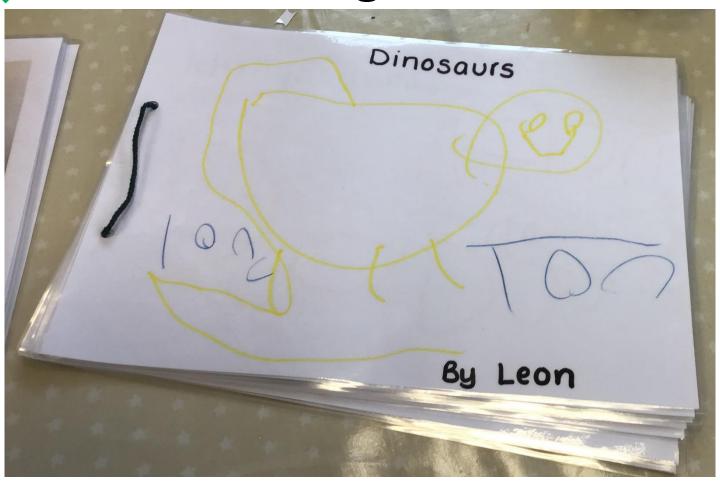
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# **Creating Books**



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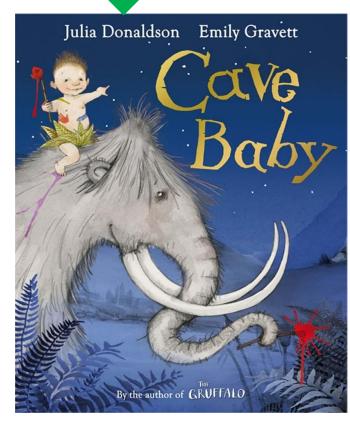
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Inspiration from Favourite Stories



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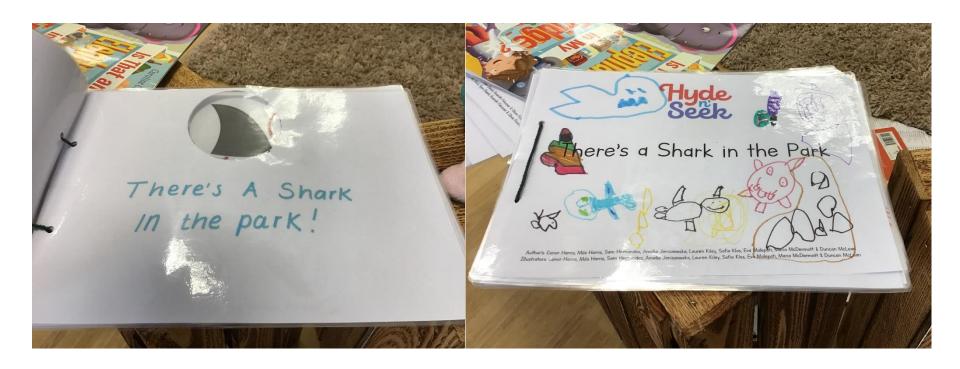








### **Writing Sequels**





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# Collaborative / Shared Writing



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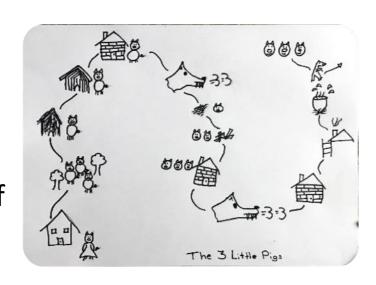






### **Story Mapping**

- A way to illustrate the settings, characters and sequence of events from familiar stories.
- Supports and scaffolds children's retelling of stories and the creation of their own storylines.
- Support children's understanding of stories through a multi sensory approach, using drawings, marks, 'writing', movement and expression.







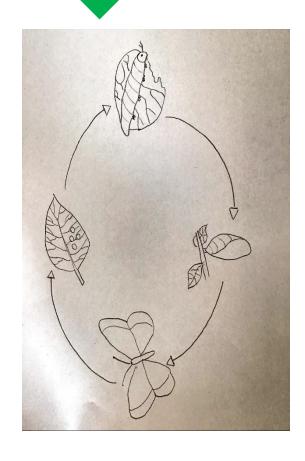


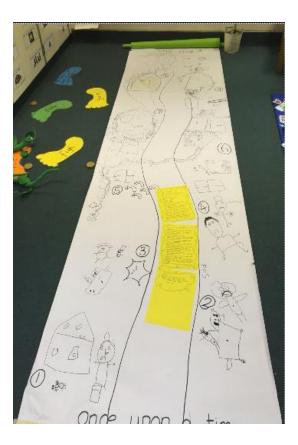






# Story Maps









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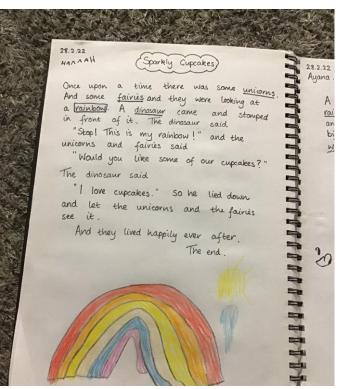
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**Story Acting** 

Story Scribing...Helicopter Stories

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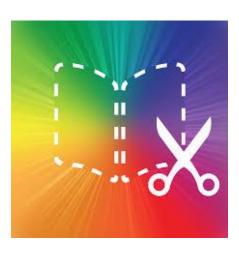
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### **Digital Stories**



#### **Book Creator**



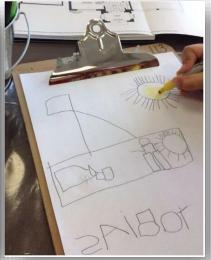






# Mark Making – Block Play









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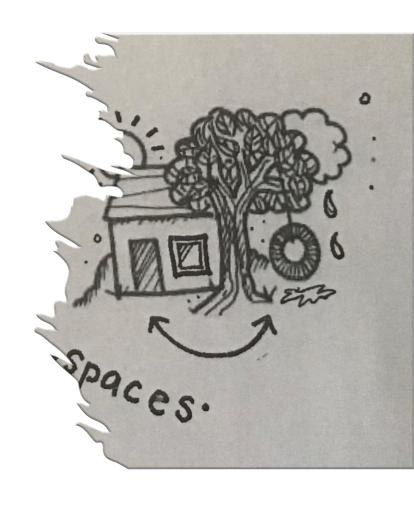
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- Ensure there are opportunities for mark making emergent writing throughout your spaces, both indoors and out.
- Observe how the children are interacting with your spaces.





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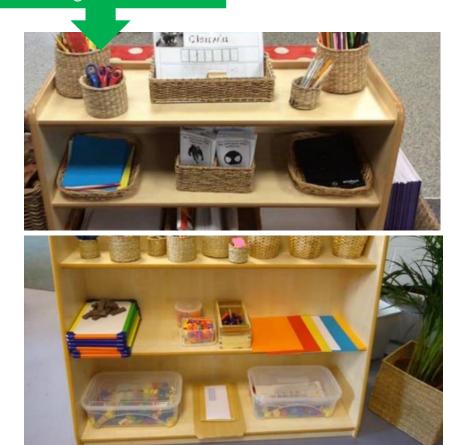
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#### Writing Area

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# TATE YOUR OWN

# BRUSHES











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#### **Writing Caddies**

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#### **Deconstructed Role Play**

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#### **Deconstructed Role Play**

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#### **Deconstructed Role Play**

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