



Learning to write

Lots of the older children are now becoming very keen on 'writing'. This is lovely and we are ensuring they continue to have all the opportunities they need to develop this exciting new skill. We thought it would be interesting to think about all the key points underlying what a huge step this is - to write children, need:

- to 'mark make' long before they can write, enabling them to develop the appropriate body skills and strength.
- a well-developed pincer grip, with control over tendons and muscles in their hand, arm and chest
- to have developed 'low load control' - i.e. the shoulder movements that control the arm and hand when writing.
- to have developed the awareness and ability to know where their body is in any space and to be able to control it ('proprioception')
- to feel confident to 'have a go.'
- finally to have something they want to write about!

This development can be supported by all sorts of activities and resources:

- pencils, crayons, chinks, felt pens, paint brushes and sponges.
- different sizes and colours of paper and card, clipboards, old diaries, and notebooks.
- opening and closing clothes pegs.
- playdough.
- helping to stir and cook.
- white boards and marker pens.
- chalk boards, the floor and chalk.
- water painting on the outside walls, fences, and trees.
- painting and playing with mud, water, and sand.
- everyday activities - doing up buttons and zips, using a knife and fork.
- activities such as pegboards, threading, climbing, throwing, catching, digging, pulling.