

Mark Making and Writing Ideas and Tips

Fine Motor Skills

- Empty tubs with pegs clipped around the outside
- Threading
- Padlocks and keys
- Loom bands
- Messy play
- Sand play, making patterns
- Mark making tools in all areas of provision
- Geo boards
- Aqua beads and tweezers
- Funky Fingers
- Pom pom drop
- Colander and pipe cleaners
- Pipettes and syringes in water
- Messy writing
- Ribbon rings
- Fidget toys
- Balancing golf balls on golf tees
- Access to nuts and bolts
- Finger gym

Gross Motor Development

- Sensory activities such as peanut ball, trampolines
- Large tyres
- Water and large brushes, mops, painting walls and fences
- Vertical chalk boards
- Tables with no chairs
- Yoga
- Shower curtain as a painting backdrop
- Large scale equipment for children to move and transport
- Wheelbarrows, crates, large blocks
- Window cleaning opportunities
- Movement to music – DJ Raphi dance videos
- Baby Shark
- Opportunities to climb (risky play)
- Obstacle courses
- Lifting, stacking, rolling, carrying, balancing, developing muscles
- Rolling cable reels
- Den building

Top Tips

- Invitations to play linked to interest of children
- Loose parts play to manipulate eg sequins, buttons etc
- Large loose parts areas for open ended play opportunities
- Shared mark making opportunities
- Large paper under tables to mark make whilst lying down
- Spray bottles for painting
- Light wands
- Gloop, clay, playdough
- Transient art
- Litter picking
- Mark making in mud with sticks
- Making wands
- Scissors being available with the dough
- Role play opportunities
- Potion station
- Adding mark making resources to a vehicle and moving around to make marks
- Washing lines with pegs

