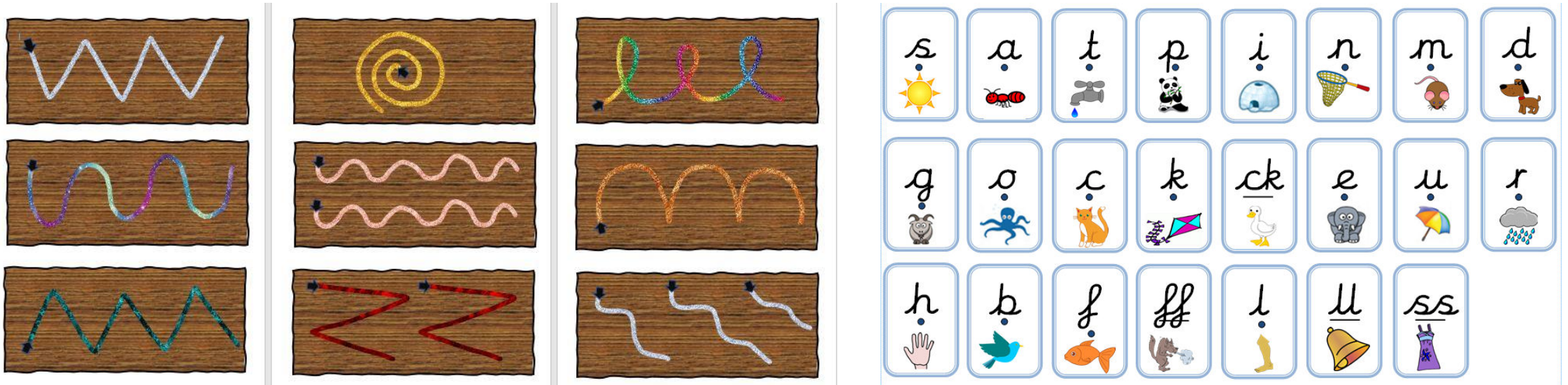


Mark Making and Writing Workshop



"Young children who are given rich opportunities to explore making marks within an encouraging environment will become confident and competent communicators, both orally and on paper"

The Writing Journey

When you learn to write you need to think about so many things...

- How to hold a pencil correctly
- How to sit properly on a chair
- Experiment with pressure when writing
- Think about letter formation
- Think about letter size
- Think about what you want to write
- Think about the sounds in the words
- Think about finger spaces and punctuation

The Writing Journey

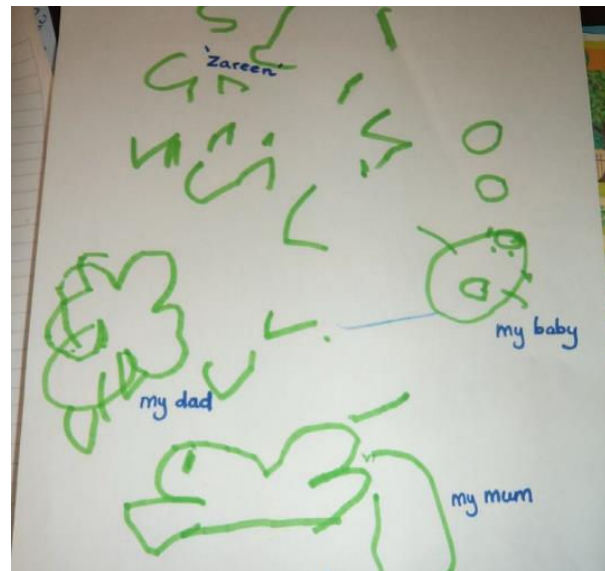
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But
before a child can
do any of this we
have to prepare
them with some
prewriting skills

Pre writing skills

- Develop Gross motor skills
- Develop Fine motor skills
- Practise prewriting patterns and practise drawing
 - realise that marks have a meaning



Gross Motor Skills

Gross motor skills involve movement of the large muscles in arms, legs, and tummy.

Gross motor activities include walking, running, skipping, jumping, throwing, climbing and many others.

This helps us with lots of activities - moving around, sitting on the carpet, lining up...- and especially when we come to write.

Developing our muscles helps us to sit up strong and use our core muscles all at the same time. We have more control over our movements.



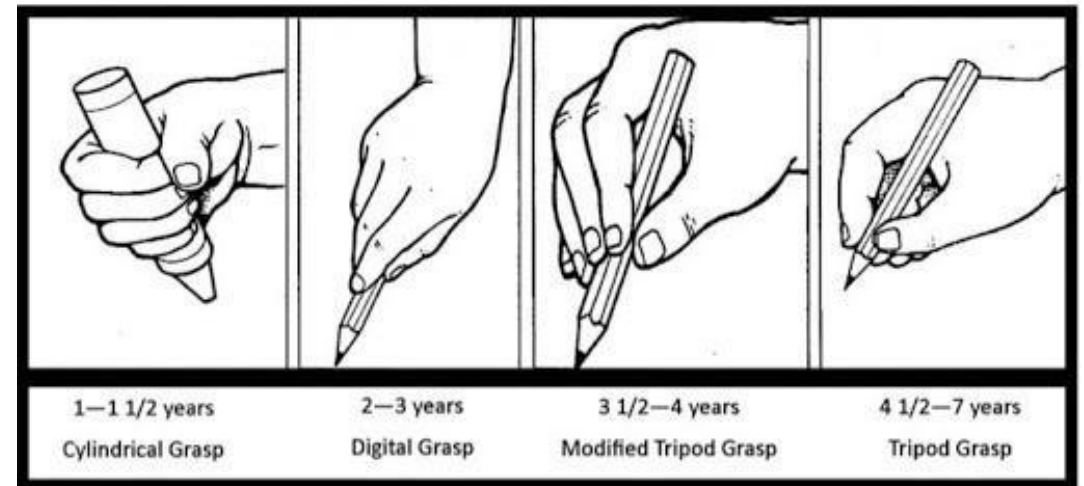
Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills are those that involve a refined use of the small muscles which control our hands, fingers and thumbs.



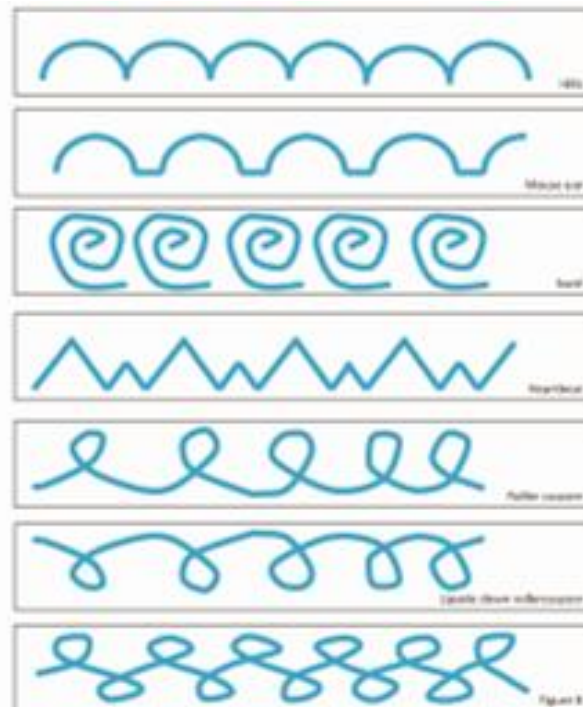
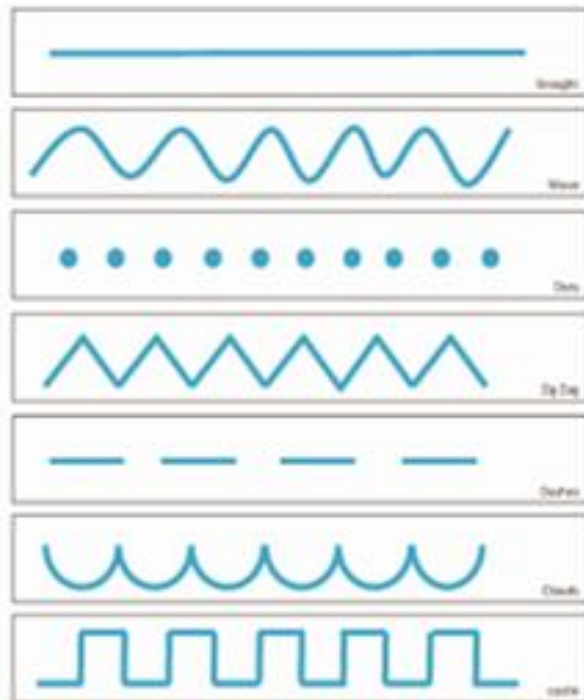
This helps us a lot of activities - building, getting dressed and doing buttons up, eating with a knife and fork, arts and crafts... - and especially with writing

It helps us hold pencils properly so we can apply the right amount of pressure and move our hand in the right way



Practise Prewriting Patterns and Drawing

This is where children experiment with making marks and learn how to control their movements. They learn about pressure and different shapes that they can make. They learn about the size of the marks they make. They learn to give meanings to the marks they make.



Pre Writing Shapes



1-2 years



2-3 years



3 years



3 years



4 years



4 years
4 months



4 years
6 months



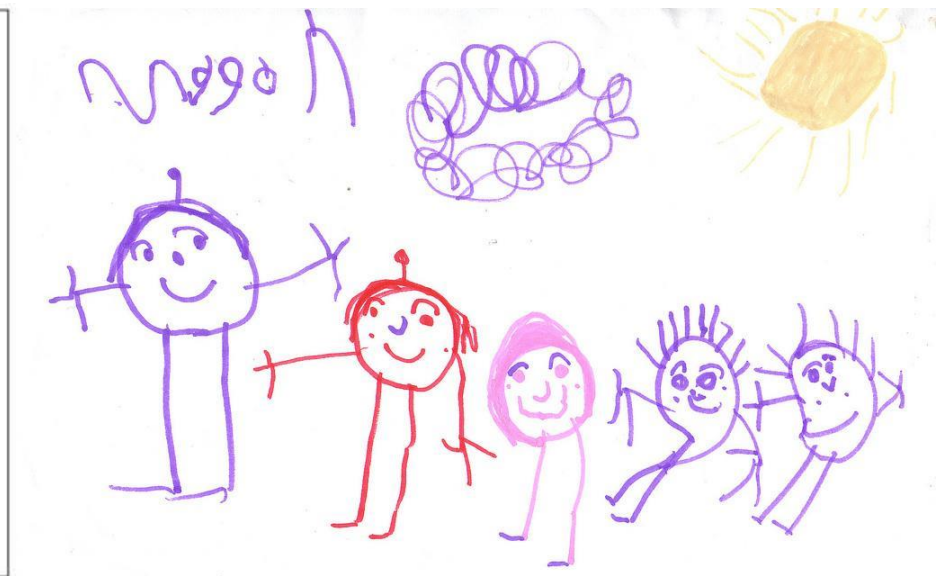
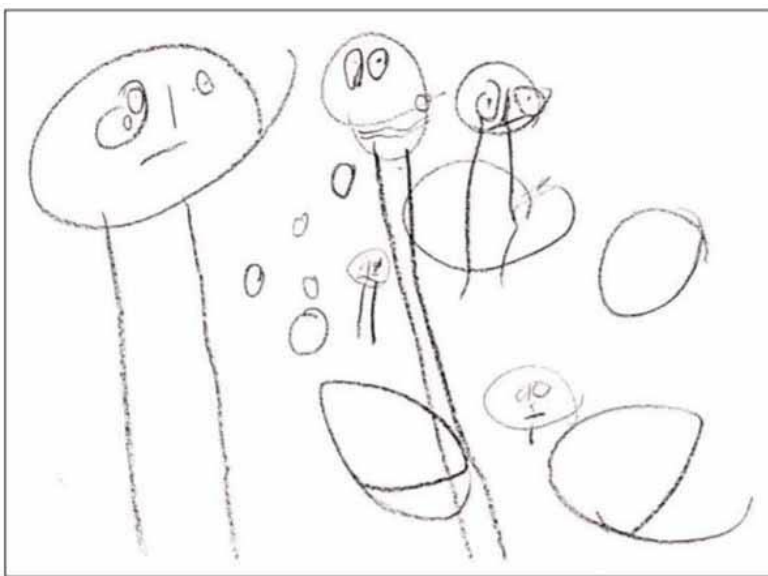
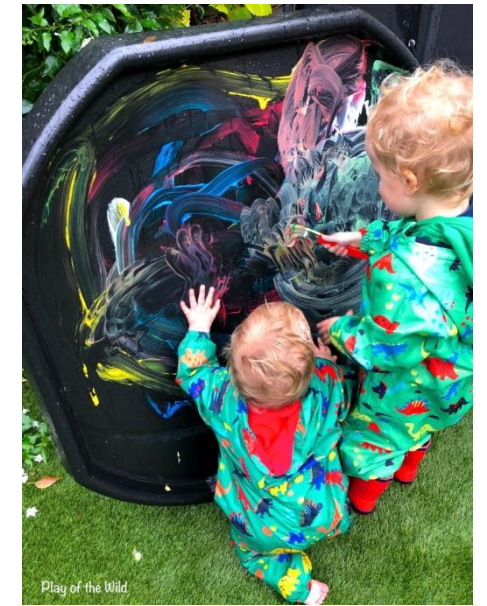
4 years
7 months



4 years
11 months



5 years
3 months



The Writing Journey

When you learn to write you need to think about so many things...

- How to hold a pencil correctly
- How to sit properly on a chair
- Experiment with pressure when writing
- **Think about letter formation**
- Think about letter size
- **Think about what you want to write**  This is where reading, talking and imagination all help
- **Think about the sounds in the words**
- Think about finger spaces and punctuation

Letter formation

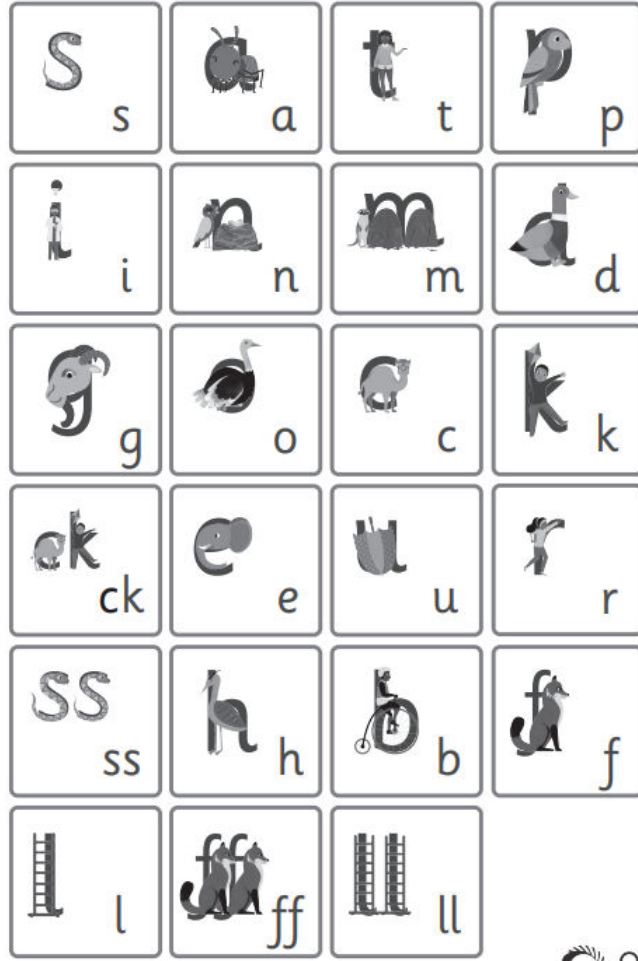
a b c d e
f g h i j k
l m n o p
q r s t u
v w x y z

Letter formation families

Letter Formation



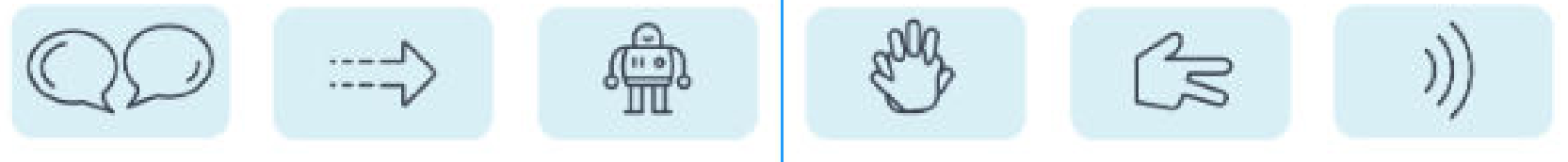
Using our phonics to write words...



Segmenting = Chopping up a word and saying the individual sounds in order and putting it back together

e.g. t-i-n, f-r-o-g, sh-i-p.
This is the basis for writing

We use this spelling sequence



1. Say the word clearly into your hands, warm it up
2. Stretch it - can think about syllables here too
3. Sound out the word with robot arms (segmenting)
4. Blend the word together again
5. Sound it out, but this time count the sounds in the word
6. Say the word

...then sentences



Phase 2 Tricky Words

the

to

I

no

go

into

Phase 3 Tricky Words

you

they

all

are

my

her

he

she

we

me

be

was

We say our sentence and count our words a few times. We start with short sentences. We use phonics mats to help us. We remind them to use finger spaces between each word. We talk about capital letters and full stops.

By the end of Reception

Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

Fine Motor Skills

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.
- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Writing

- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Oh sata day I

Went to the
met to the
doam

Iswamandplaidwivsar
I Went on the side:

Jack and the Beanstalk



Once upon a time there was...

^{boy} A boy called Jack
he devmum • mum
sedge ^{go} to mure
and ^{sell the} cow • Jack
got m^a Jack beans.

Things you can do at home to help

- Do activities to develop gross motor skills - running, walking, bike rides, going to the park, swimming lessons, dancing, football, yoga...
- Do activities to develop fine motor skills - playdough, threading, building, lego, tweezers, puzzles, colouring, using scissors, squeeze bottles, pouring water, activities to develop hand eye coordination...
- Practise prewriting patterns and drawing - experiment with different marks in different ways, different shapes, different sizes, different pressure. Draw together and show them how to make marks

Things you can do at home to help

- Practise oral segmenting - say a word, can they use robot arms to segment the words → this can be made into games
- Practise letter formation - name writing, homework, activity books, write in a highlighter/ felt tip pen that they have to trace over
- Begin to encourage writing words and sentences - try and link writing for a purpose so it's fun - write shopping lists, write a note, draw a picture and write what you drew, write a note about the model you built, write rules for the game you made up...
- Try to keep mark making fun! Follow your child's interests, don't rush them into writing if they aren't ready. Lots of praise!

When children know that their efforts are valued by the important people in their lives, they are empowered to think creatively and develop confidence in themselves as learners.

Useful links

Gross Motor

- Cosmic Kids Yoga - <https://www.youtube.com/@CosmicKidsYoga>
- Danny Go - <https://www.youtube.com/@DannyGo>

Fine Motor

- Playdough recipe <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>
- Playdough action songs - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOLR3pQt8zg>
- Look on google, Pinterest, even facebook or tiktok - there's lots of great easy ideas around that you can try using household items