Literacy – pre-writing – information for parents

Dear parents,

You might hear us talking about 'mark making' in relation to your child's early writing.

It is important that we don't put pressure on your child to write before they are physically or developmentally ready – we will simply turn them off their learning. We need to provide them with mark making opportunities in their daily play and model writing, so they see it's something adults do too!

Here are some fun ideas for early mark making which you can also use at home:

- Use chalk, crayons, pencils, paint brushes and more.
- Play doctors and write a prescription for the poorly bear.
- Write names on all pictures and paintings.
- Provide a pad and pencil so your child can write their diary every day.
- Sign in when you get up – just like children at school.
- Use sticks in the sand or mud in the garden.
- Write big letters in the air with fingers and ribbons on sticks.
- Write sticker stories using stickers of their favourite television or book characters.
- Draw round your hands and feet to check if they are growing.
- Design clothes or shoes together – our early years children love decorating clothes.
- Set out a tray of sand or salt and write the letters from your name in it with a pencil or stick.
- Take a clipboard into the garden and draw the minibeasts or plants.
- Draw round flowers you have picked in the garden.
- Make decorated notepaper to tempt them to write stories.
- Strengthen hands, arms and shoulders with playdough and challenge the shoulders and core strength when you take the chairs away and stand at the table instead of sitting.
- Write recipes and shopping lists together and make the food you have bought.

There are hundreds of early mark making and writing ideas and we will continue to share some of our early mark making activities with you through the months.

If you have any questions about how we support your child's early writing development or you have concerns about your child's progress, please ask. Thank you.

Childcare Happy Days
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