Mark Making

Happy New Year! Welcome back to our existing families and welcome to our new families.

Every week you will receive a Tapestry Information Post, alternating between how you can support your children with the curriculum and parenting advice. Everyone receives the post and please let us know if you would like a post to cover a specific area of learning or parenting.

This week's post is all about Mark Making.

What is mark making?
Mark Making is the term used to describe the improvised marks that children make. These marks can take the form of lines, dots, shapes, or patterns. Mark making begins from a very young age because mark making is not just about drawing or writing skills. Mark making is also a physical, sensory experience in which babies, toddlers, and young children learn many different skills.

There are many, varied types of mark making that allow children to create their own marks using different materials, tools, and even different body parts. Mark making can be demonstrated very early on in a child's developmental journey, with babies and toddlers experimenting with marks during sensory activities, such as messy play.

These mark making experiences will contribute towards supporting children's eventual early writing activities, as mark making provides the foundations for early drawing and writing.

As children grow and their hand muscles develop, the way they hold their pencil (pencil grip) changes. Attached is a photo of the different stages of pencil grip development. If you feel your child is ready for the next stage, you can encourage and show them the next stage. However, pushing your child too soon to the next stage is likely to make them more reluctant to mark make as it can be uncomfortable and they associate this discomfort with writing.

There are many other types of mark making using different materials or tools too, such as:

* Provide a range of mark making equipment of different sizes and shapes, for example, large paint brushes and vertical easels, chalkboards and chalk, paper and felt tip pens, or crayons.
* Using a stick to make marks in mud or sand.
* Making marks on walls using water and paintbrushes.
* Leave marks in the bubbles at bath time.

* Mark making on paper with paint, crayons, or even coloured ice cubes as they melt!
* Drawing with your finger through flour or icing sugar sifted onto a surface.
* Rolling a toy car through paint to see the tracks it leaves.
* Encourage children to submerge their fingers, hands, or feet in paint to make prints on paper or cardboard.
* Provide children with playdough and suitable mark making tools, what prints can they make in the playdough?

We would love to see any creative mark making that you do at home, please upload pictures onto Tapestry for us to see!

