

# Supporting your child with early writing

Children's early writing goes through several stages. Your child may start by just putting marks on paper, to forming shapes that look like letters (often circles and lines) and then to different letter shapes that might be in their name. Whatever writing phase your child is in, always encourage them to mark make in any way.



Having control of gross motor skills will help your child with smaller movements, also known as fine motor skills. Therefore, lots of active and energetic activities are important. Get your child dancing – jump, stretch and twist. Walk in straight lines, wonky lines; practise going under and over objects; play catch, football and encourage your child to ride a bike.

Play dough is not only a great way for your child to get creative, but it is also really important for them to practise using their fingers so they are strong enough to hold a pencil. Encourage your child to play with the play dough in different ways, for example twisting, pinching, squeezing, pressing and rolling, all while they are making their incredible creations.



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Mark making is really important and your child can mark make with lots of different resources, for example, pencils, pens, crayons, stones on the pavement, their finger once it's been dipped in paint or water: the options are endless.

*Below are some ways you can encourage your child to mark make. Do not worry about their spelling and praise them for anything they create.*



*Writing lists, for example of their toys, family members, what they want from the shops.*



*Writing letters, cards and invites. Perhaps they could write a letter to a family member they haven't seen for a while.*



*Writing labels, for example showing the start of an obstacle course they have created or labelling images they have drawn.*

**It is also important to talk lots to your child and encourage them to talk lots too. Encourage your child to answer in full sentences as they get older: if we want children to write sentences, they need to be able to speak in sentences first.**



**St Chad's**  
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# Supporting your child with early reading

Reading plays an important part of our curriculum and we explore lots of books with your child. Reading helps with your child's ability to understand words, use their imagination and develop their speech, as well as being something they really enjoy.

Below, and continued on to the next slide, are some top tips to support your child.

1

Encourage your child to look at the front cover and tell you what they see. Can they predict what the book could be about?

2

Use the front cover to find out what the title of the book is and who the author and illustrator is.

3

To help your child recognise that we read from left to right, point to the words as you read to them.



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4

As you read, pause occasionally to ask questions such as what has happened. You can also get your child to look closely at the illustrations and count the characters or describe them.

5

Talk lots about the books you have read and reread them to your child so they become familiar with story language. Role play the stories with your child and bring them to life in different ways.

6

Encourage your child to read books. They can use the illustrations to help them think about what might be happening.

**Until libraries in Calderdale reopen, you can access eBooks online to read with your child. You could even take part in the summer reading challenge.**

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/leisure-and-culture/whatson/events/summer-reading-challenge-2020-silly-squad>



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