



Mark Making and Fine Motor Skills

Mark making simply refers to the creation of different patterns, lines, textures and shapes. Mark making gives children the opportunity to express themselves and explore new materials other than pen and paper. Encourage them to create marks using their fingers to draw in the sand, paint on an easel or prod them into soft dough.

- ✚ **Pour flour or uncooked rice** onto a tray. Practise drawing and writing in the flour. You could set the challenge of name writing, practising individual letters or forming o - |.
- ✚ **Look through old magazines, newspapers or catalogues** together. Talk about the pictures that your child likes and cut them out together and stick on a piece of paper to make a collage.
- ✚ **Hide some plastic animals** in a bowl of cooked (cooled) spaghetti. Using tongs, a spoon or fingers, ask your child to find them all. They could count them in or out...
- ✚ **Squirt some shaving foam** onto a plate or a tray. Encourage your child to make patterns in the foam with their fingers or a paint brush.
- ✚ **Fill a zip lock bag with poster paint.** Zip the bag up and seal with sellotape. Encourage your child to use their fingers to make marks in the paint.
- ✚ **Use chunky chalks** to draw shapes, letters and numbers on the patio or path.
- ✚ **Make play dough** using the following recipe:
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>
Once **the** play dough is ready, challenge your child to make people, letters, numbers or animals!
- ✚ **Take part in a Dough Disco** using playdough or sensory putty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=br890A4LLJU>
- ✚ **Make pasta necklaces or bracelets** by threading string through pasta tubes. You could get really creative and paint the pasta tubes in different colours.
- ✚ The following links may be useful:

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/mark-making/>

<https://www.rawchildhood.co.uk/outdoor-mark-making-with-early-years-resources/>