

Mark making and emerging writing skills in Panda Class

In Panda Class, we provide the children with lots of opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor control through a wide range of activities. This development is essential to ensure that they have dynamic pencil control by the time they reach the reception class.

We also use our outdoor environment to support exploring in this area of development. Our outdoor class room, the playground, our daily walks and forest school provide plentiful opportunities.



The children learn to develop these skills through the creative and fun activities that we provide through our continuous provision. This can be from drawing in the mud with sticks to mark making in shaving foam, gloup or cous-cous. We explore lots of various textures and mediums to ensure the children are always motivated in exploring mark making opportunities.



We have a 'mark making wall' where the children can independently practice mark-making patterns using chalk or their fingers. Children are encouraged to freely access the resources trays and to tidy up away at the end of the sessions as well. This encourages independent learning which prepares them for the big school.



Our mark making table is always available for the children to come to independently or with adult support. It is usually themed around our story of the week or topic. We provide tracing sheets, laminated formats, coloured and shaped paper and lots of choices of colouring.



Mark making outside is always fun!





We used lots of different tools to mark make stripes for our 'Tiger who Came To Tea' pictures.



We love to mark make with our hands!



We encourage the development of the children's mark making skills with pen and paper, white board pens and boards and into books from the very start of the academic year. The children love to spend time 1:1 with a familiar adult using their special pencil control books.

We love to see the children's mark making skills develop throughout the year. It is really easy to find mark making opportunities when you are out and about. It might be as simple as drawing in the sand at the beach or in a muddy puddle in the back garden!