

Ideas for encouraging mark making, writing and developing phonic skills

Below are a list of ideas for promoting and practising both letter formation and phonics at home:

- Bending and forming playdough into letter shapes
- Baking cookies in different letter shapes
- Painting on an outside wall using water and a brush
- Large chalks on a chalk board or the ground outdoors
- Mark making with charcoal
- Writing letters with your fingers in shaving foam, flour, sugar, sand
- Using foam letters or magnetic letters in the bath/on the fridge
- Finger painting to practise letter formation
- Using our arms and hands to write huge letters in the air
- Making letters or cards to post to family members and friends
- Using a computer to practise phonics skills/finding capital letters
- Creating letters with our bodies on the floor and taking photographs
- Using everyday objects such as cutlery, shells, pebbles to make letters
- Practise letters learnt so far using songs and actions
- Play word recognition snap by writing words on cards and turning them over to match up and read them
- Playing simple games such as eye spy or ask children if they can see something beginning with a particular letter sound
- Use magnetic letters or flash cards to build and sound out words
- Put items in a box, as your child to pick one out and tell you what sound it begins with
- Think up different words that rhyme or words that begin with the same letter and make silly sentences together

