Ideas for encouraging mark making, writing and for developing phonic skill

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 from the tip of a burnt stick
- 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 taught 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
- Place tomato sauce or tinned tomatoes or baked bins in a tray and write letters or words
- Squirt shaving foam in a tray and write letters or words



Ideas for writing at home.

- What can you write with your child?
- Shopping list
- List of things to take on a journey
- Writing a book – a story
- Make a card for family member
- Write an email to a relative
- Special writing box with new and exciting writing materials
- Concertina books – beginning, middle, end
- Write a message
- Write a text on the phone.
- Write what happened next after a story you have read.
- Draw and label key characters in a book.

Ideas to develop Phonics to support reading and writing:

- Find sounds in books
- Find letters in books and write them
- Practise letter formation.
- Find High Frequency Words and tricky words in books and write them. Put them in a sentence. Make words and sentences with magnet letters
- Cut up words in a sentence and re-arrange again into a sentence.
- Label things they make at home. Write what they have made. Label drawers.
- Practise sounding out and reading and writing 5 words a week.

By end of Reception children need to be able to read and write phase 2, 3 and 4 tricky words and High Frequency words.

