**How to encourage Writing:**

**Name Writing**

* Practice writing their name and forming the letters correctly.
* Ask them to put their name on models/ labels and drawings.

**Mark Making**

Here are some activities that will help develop mark making skills at home.

Mark Making - this should go beyond pencil and paper and include a range of textures and media Paint using an easel and large brushes Paint the paving stones/ flags with water Draw shapes in the air with a wand Dance with a ribbon in your writing hand Chalk on boards or dark coloured sugar paper Draw in the sand Finger paint on the table with cold water paste and powder paints Make rubbings on rough surfaces

**Drawing/ writing**

* In Nursery, we were practicing drawing and adding detail. This might be a picture of something they have been doing, or their favourite book or TV show.
* We are also asking children to ‘write’. This is mark making rather than letter shapes (See below). Ensure to ask you child what they have written.

**Purposeful Writing**

* Plan writing around their own interests. For example, if your child likes dinosaurs you might share a dinosaur book and then create a ‘wanted poster’. You could also create birthday cards or labels for models.
* Use a different range of writing tools. This may be painting the floor outside or using large marker pens on large paper in the floor.
* Consider how you can motivate your children’s mark-making and writing outdoors as well as indoors. Encourage children to make marks and write both inside and outside.



**Writing Examples**

It is important that your child enjoys writing for a purpose. Here are some examples of what you can do at home:

* Play with magnet letters/ stencils
* Encourage your child to write their own books (you could fold A3 paper to make an easy flip book)
* Create a shopping list for the next shopping trip
* Make an alphabet book and adding a picture for each letter
* Write to friends and relatives (Especially during this time, children would enjoy writing a letter to friends and family. Maybe they could send one back?)
* Write in different ways (See ideas above)
* Create a label for a model
* Create a card- new home/ new baby/ birthday/ thankyou etc
* Write a ‘home’ postcard to different family members

**Shared Writing**

* You can practice writing with your child, modelling how to form letters and the sounds in words. You could then ‘read’ it together. Point to each word you have written as you read.

**Fine motor Development**

In order to hold a pencil to write, children must develop their fine motor skills.

Below are some different activities you can do with your child at home:

* **Playdough—**pinching, squeezing, with thumb and forefinger, poking, rolling to make a snake **Threading—**beads, pasta straws. Make necklaces **Picking up small objects-** Using the thumb and index finger. Learning to use tweezers and pipettes or small eye droppers **Finger rhymes—**stretching and curling fingers, moving them independently **Water play—**using spray toys and spray bottles. Water the flowers, spray the path or windows **Craft activities—**glue sticks and paint brushes. Making collages with paper, decorating with sequins. **Icing cakes—**using a plastic dispenser to push and squeeze out the icing. **Strengthening activities—**swinging from a climbing frame, grasping to climb, crawling through tunnels.

**Stirring cake mixtures —** using a two- handed operation, one to hold the bowl the other to stir. Encourage anti-clockwise rotation

**Making powder paint and blending colours**– as with mixing a cake.