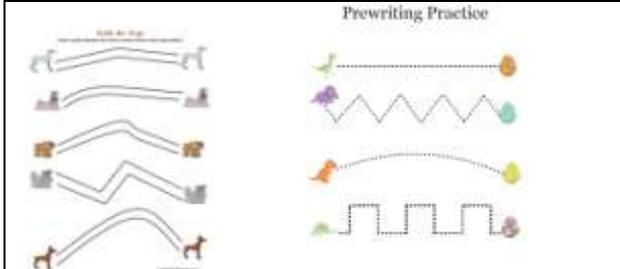
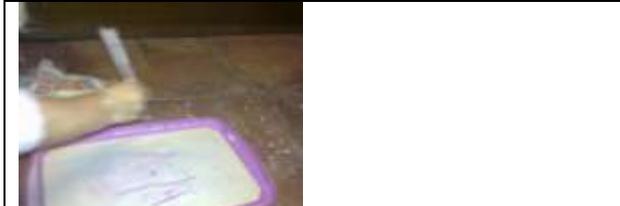


Ideas for developing writing with Foundation Stage children.



<h2 style="color: blue;">Fine Motor skills</h2>	<p>Children need to develop good fine motor skill to develop good pencil control. They need to develop the strength of muscles in their hands, improve hand-eye co-ordination and develop the pincer grip. Eventually this helps with good letter formation.</p>
	<p>Pegs..... Onto numbered pots, hanging out washing, to pick up pom poms.</p>
	<p>Tweezers Plastic tweezers, (or even Mum's from her make up bag!) Use them to transport small objects such as pomp oms, buttons, seeds, beans, sequins, smarties, coins, from one bowl to another.</p>
	<p>Threading: Beads onto a string, buttons or beads onto pipe cleaners, pipe cleaners through a colander, punch holes into a paper plate and make a spider's web, make your own lacing card shapes.</p>
	<p>Paper clips onto cardboard tubes.</p>
	<p>Pencils and pasta shapes. Or playdough, noodles and Cheerios! Children can develop hand-eye co-ordination in a fun way.</p>
	<p>Tap tap (or tap-a-shape) The small hammer provided in this set helps the children to hit a little "nail" into the cork board to make pictures.</p>

	<p>Nuts and bolts</p> <p>Use real ones or plastic ones. Encourage your child to use his/her thumb and fingers to twist the nuts and bolts.</p>
	<p>Rolling play dough with palms or fingers</p> <p>Encourage your child to roll long shapes using the palms of the hand; or roll balls using their palms; or smaller balls between their finger and thumbs.</p>
<p>Mark Making</p>	
	<p>Vertical lines –</p> <p>Painting a fence or shed with vertical strokes from paintbrush and water. Teach down – top to bottom. This is the way in which most letters are formed.</p>
	<p>Anti-clockwise circles</p> <p>Children need to learn how to make anti-clockwise circle shapes. Most “round letters” a,c,d,g,o,q, - start with an anti-clockwise shape. Do it with ribbons on sticks in the air, water and hosepipes on ground, sticks in mud, fingers in sand, paint, flour, chalk on the ground, etc, etc</p>
	<p>Patterns to trace and follow</p> <p>Draw lines that the child has to stay in between (example 1) of pathways to trace over (example 2) Ensure left to right – this is developing the idea that we write from left to right across the page.</p>
	<p>Sticks and mud.</p> <p>Encourage your child to make marks or letter shapes in the mud. Same idea with soil, sand, the beach, salt, flour, sugar, Vary how you make the marks – finger, paintbrush (wrong end), end of feather, straw,</p>
	<p>Shaving foam</p>
	<p>Corn flour.</p> <p>Watch the “magic” as the letter disappears due to the nature of the corn flour.</p>

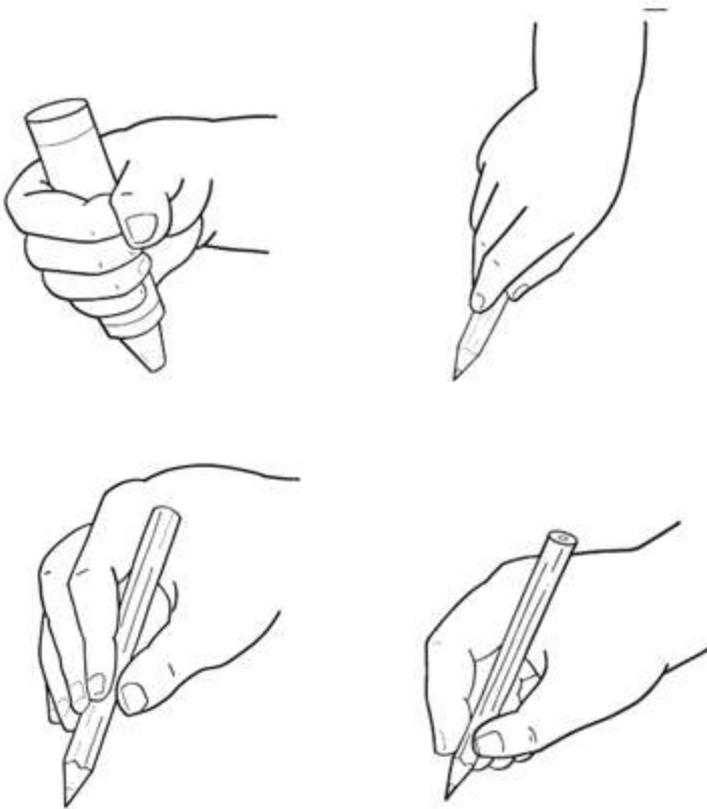
	<p>“Magic” writing with white candles. Child to make marks or letter shapes with a candle. Paint over it with a watered down paint mix and hey presto! The writing appears.</p>
 	<p>Chalking: On shed, fence or pavement. Could encourage them to make specific shapes, letters, numbers to make a game.</p>
	<p>Make “roadway” letter shapes. Preferably lower case letters. Show your child where the car has to start the journey, which way it has to go, and where to finish. (see letter formation sheet)</p>
	<p>Pieces of wallpaper (or other large pieces of paper) on the floor. Allow your child to sit/lay on floor and make marks or letter shapes. Try putting music on and get him/her to make marks according to “what the music tells them to do”.</p>
	<p>Finger painting. Encourage your child to use just one finger to make marks, pictures, letters.</p>
	<p>Range of things to write on: Clip boards, pads of paper, note books, lined books, shopping lists, white boards. Children like different things to write on.....paper and pencils sometimes get a bit boring!</p>
	<p>Magic Slates. Some children like the idea that they can erase their marks easily, especially if they think they have made a mistake. The “magic” in these slates encourage children to make marks again and again.</p>
<p>I’m sure you can think of lots of other ideas....let me know of any exciting things you do with your child to develop fine motor skills in a fun way.</p>	

It is important that you encourage your child to hold their mark making tool correctly.

At first they may not have decided which hand to hold their pencil in.....that is fine. **DO NOT** force your child to hold his/her pencil in a specific hand. Eventually he/she will find which one suits them best.

Below are the stages a child goes through when learning how to hold a pencil.

Pencil grip progression



Encourage your child to hold the pencil in the standard “tripod grip”. This is when the child pinches with thumb and index finger while resting on middle finger.

Tricks to try:

1. Give them shorter pencils. This encourages them to hold the pencil or crayon nearer the tip. It will also encourage less fingers to be crammed into holding the pencil.
2. Try “pinch and flip” technique.

Hold the sharp end of the pencil between thumb and fore finger.

Flick it over so it rests on the



Letter formation (see separate sheet)