

Play is the key way children learn about themselves, others and the world they live in. It is essential to their learning, development, health, and physical, mental and social well-being – and it's FUN! Play provides the building blocks to be ready for school.



Mark Making

As coordination increases and your child's way of holding mark makers becomes more mature, they will purposefully draw images and produce more precise and varied work. The more enjoyable the activity is, the more your child will practice and the more their skill will develop.

Did you know?

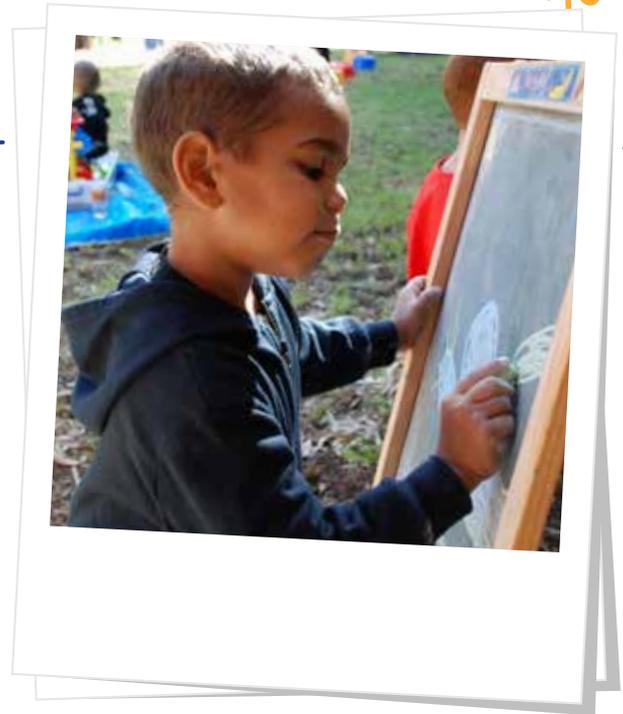
Choosing tools that work easily really matters! Children will enjoy the activity more and draw for longer when the crayon, pencil or chalk chosen works easily and produces clear marks. This also helps them develop greater skills in the future as they move towards writing.

Add language

Having your child explain how they created their masterpiece or tell the story behind their picture gives your child practise at more complex language. Try asking open questions (e.g. what, how, why, describe...), showing lots of interest and see where it leads!

Other development

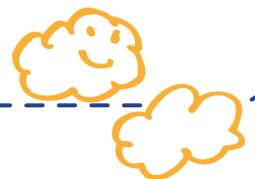
Using drawing tools helps your child to develop a preferred hand (left or right). It also builds the hand strength needed to both use the tool with one hand and stabilise the activity with the other hand.



Variations

Tracing and colouring can be good practice for fine motor skills but it must be fun for your child or they won't stick with it.

It is most useful to provide lots of opportunities for free creative play that includes mark making. This can be done through providing lots of variety of mark making tools and things to make marks on.



- Playgroup WA has a treasure trove of play activities for babies, toddlers and 3-5 year olds, for home and playgroup. These play activities cover a balanced diet of play across sensory, movement, language and thinking skill areas.

You can find them at www.playgroupwa.com.au/playideas or visit www.facebook.com/playgroupwa



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Mark Making Continued...

Try to make books, paper, and writing materials available and fun. Why not use chalk, glitter glue, stamping or writing in sand to get them to 'make their mark' and develop precise hand skills!

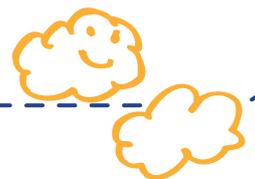
Making their own wrapping paper and greeting cards gives your child a sense of pride, purpose and achievement.

Carrying a small pack of crayons and pad of paper in your bag can be handy for keeping your child playfully occupied while waiting when you are out and about.

Safety

Non-toxic materials and supervision are important for your child's safety (and for your walls!).

This can be a good opportunity to talk about where we can make our mark, where we shouldn't make marks and why!



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