

# Early Writing

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January

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# What should I do?

- Read aloud stories, rhymes, poems and other books – rich vocabulary!
- Traditional stories are particularly important due to their structures (power of 3, repetition etc)
- Act as a scribe – write down stories for your child/ren
- The ideas and content are theirs – you simply write them
- Read stories back with your child/ren

# What can I do?

- Write alongside your child/ren
- Allow your child/ren to see you writing
- Create a real purpose for children to make marks
- Shopping lists
- Christmas/Eid cards
- Name cards
- Birthday cards
- Big paper – big marks

# Fine/Gross Motor Skills

- Lego
- Tweezers
- Threading beads/buttons
- Climbing/swinging in the park
- Digging and pouring
- Playdough
- Writing in sand/shaving foam
- Cutting/sticking

# Things to write with

- Chunky pens
- Felt tips
- Chalks
- Pencils
- Computers
- iPads and tablets
- Make a writing box/bag with lovely pens, crayons, post it notes etc in them

# Linking letters and sounds

- Model linking letters and sounds
- Ask questions about which letters are linked to which sounds (don't over do this!)
- Name cards
- Flash cards (Mum, Dad, I the, dog, cat etc)
- Encourage and praise all attempts to make marks and celebrate these
- Post "writing" up around home

# Do these things...

- Praise attempts to make marks
- Praise letter formation
- Praise and encourage linking letters and sounds
- Scribe stories and rhymes
- Talk about what you have written for your child/ren
- Respond to content (always)

# Try not to do these things...

- Force mark making
- Make your child/ren hold a pencil if they are not ready
- Force the left/right hand issue (most children will decide on dominance for themselves)
- Criticise shape or formation of letters
- Say “no” when a mistake is made – praise effort and respond to content (always)