

Writing in the sand – exploring mark making

Age Groups: Infant, Toddler & Pre-school
Learning @ Home

You will need:

Sand – or a local beach

A stick or index finger

Directions:



Use a stick to make marks in the sand –vertical and horizontal line, circle and crosses are good to start with. Encourage your child to copy you then ask him/her to make marks for you to copy. Talk about the marks and letters you make and the movements you do to make them. “I’m starting here, then going down, then stop”. “I’m starting here then going round and round and round”. “I’m going to make M for Mummy”.

Top tips:

This helps your child develop skills and confidence in forming and connecting the curves, vertical, horizontal and zig-zag lines that form the basis of letter shapes.

Starting big then gradually working down to smaller develops as your child’s hand and eye co-ordination skills and manual dexterity skills mature and integrate.

As your child associates the language of the mark or letter shape with the action of forming these, he/she will be getting kinaesthetic feedback which is essential for any motor action.

Kinaesthesia is the knowledge of where each body part is and direction in which it is moving. It is an important component of motor control for legible handwriting.