

Ideas for encouraging mark making, writing and for developing phonic skill

Below are a list of ideas for promoting and practising both letter formation and phonics at home:

- Bending and forming play-dough into letter shapes
- Baking cookies in different letter shapes
- Painting on an outside wall using water and a brush
- Large chalks on a chalk board or the ground outdoors
- Mark making with charcoal from the tip of a burnt stick
- Writing letters with your fingers in shaving foam, flour, sugar, sand
- Using foam letters or magnetic letters in the bath/on the fridge
- Finger painting to practise letter formation
- Using our arms and hands to write huge letters in the air
- Making letters or cards to post to family members and friends
- Using a computer to practise phonics skills/finding capital letters, a good website is www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- Creating letters with our bodies on the floor and taking photographs
- Using everyday objects such as cutlery, shells, pebbles to make letters
- Practise letters learnt so far using taught songs and actions
- Play word recognition snap by writing words on cards and turning them over to match up and read them
- Playing simple games such as eye spy or ask children if they can see something beginning with a particular letter sound
- Use magnetic letters or flash cards to build and sound out words
- Put items in a box, as your child to pick one out and tell you what sound it begins with
- Think up different words that rhyme or words that begin with the same letter and make silly sentences together
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Please be careful to use the correct letter formation as shown below:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m
n o p q r s t u v w x y z

