

Writing in EYFS at Hunsley Primary



Developing your Child's Fine and Gross Motor Skills

Developing your child's gross motor skills and large muscle development plays a vital part in your child learning to write. A child needs strength in their arms, shoulders and wrists before they can begin to be able to hold a pencil and make marks. At Hunsley Primary we support the children to develop their gross motor skills through activities such as large ribbon dancing, making giant magic wands, making big marks on the playground with chalk and water guns, large scale painting and sport activities such as throwing and catching large balls and creating obstacle courses!

Once the children have developed their gross motor skills, we then support them to strengthen their fine motor skills such as the muscles in their hands and fingers so that they are then ready to hold a pencil! The children really enjoy activities such as threading, using tweezers, playing with small building blocks and pouring and experimenting in playdough, sand and water.

Here are some ideas that you might like to do to support your child's fine motor skills at home!

<https://theimaginationtree.com/40-fine-motor-skills-activities-for-kids/>



The Importance of Early Mark Making

Mark making is one of the first stages of a child learning to write and is the main focus for us when your child first starts Reception at Hunsley Primary. It is so important that children experiment with making small and large marks from a very young age. We encourage the children to make small and large marks on different types of surfaces with a variety of media such as with pens, giant chalks, paint and mud! Maybe you could try this at home too!



Learning to Write

When the children are ready, the next step is learning to write! At Hunsley Primary we try to make writing meaningful to the children and integrate it in all of our continuous provision areas. We use our 'Big Questions' to engage the children in an investigation which we hope will make your child want to write for their own purposes, whether it is a wanted poster to help catch the 'Evil Peas' or signs for looking after our baby chick eggs!

For more information on supporting your child to write please see below some useful links. We also offer Parent Learn sessions in the Autumn term to help support you at home.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/tools/guidance-reports/preparing-for-literacy/>

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/sites/default/files/Making%20their%20mark%20-%20children's%20early%20writing.pdf>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-writing-develops>

https://www.whps.org/uploaded/Offices/Curriculum_Instruction_and_Assessment/Families_-_Academics/Stages_of_Writing_Development.pdf

