



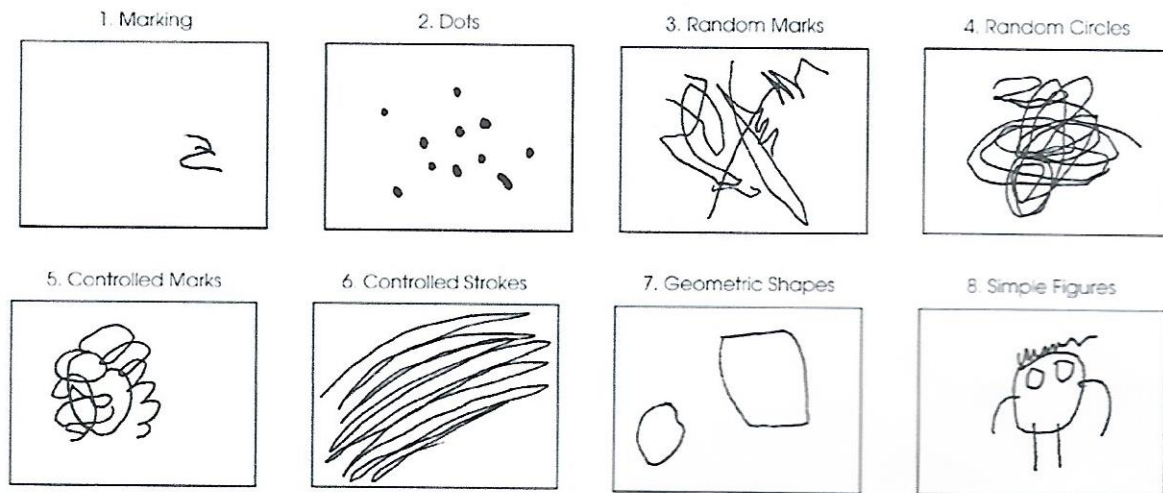
## Mark Making

### Why is mark making important?

Mark Making is the first step towards writing. It also supports physical development, self-expression and language development, creative skills and imagination, and provides opportunities to stimulate the child's thought processes and problem-solving.

### Stages of development

There are different stages a child will move through in developing their mark making, and they will need lots of opportunities to experience and practice each stage.



(Ref: Dunst and Gorman, 2009)

### Supporting a child's mark making

- In the early stages, mark making is a physical activity and children need the opportunity to engage in mark making using large movements
- Opportunities to lie on their tummy, stand and draw on vertical surfaces, etc. can give more stability and build fine motor and core strength, as well as coordination
- Identify what the child is interested in and motivated by, and build mark making opportunities around these activities/objects/materials
- Rather than providing support hand over hand, offer hand under hand support which enables the child to be more in control of the activity
- Provide visual and verbal supports
- Engage in collaborative mark making with the child, which **will include** modelling how to make marks, and encouraging peers to join in
- Be alert and notice any mark making the child produces. Provide **positive** feedback and offer the opportunity to repeat the activity again