

- Draw the child's attention to the results of their mark making- talking with the child about their work can help ascribe meaning to the marks made
- Display their work where the child can see it, take a print, a photograph, etc. as a record and for sharing

### Some practical suggestions

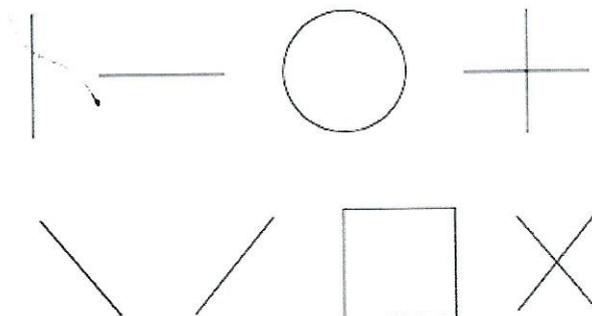
- Painting activities that involve hand/foot painting, and a range of tools that can be used to make different marks (e.g. a dishmop, sponges, potato masher, different brushes, cotton reels, etc.)
- Gather toys/items that move, to dip in the paint (e.g. wind up toys, balls, cars, trains)
- Making marks with water- using a watering can and spin around in a large circle as the can is poured out; using large decorator's brushes to paint on the playground or sugar paper; squirt water out of a squeeze bottle
- Wet and dry sand
- Rolling out playdough and pushing stamps into it
- Sensory salt (e.g. salt, lavender and glitter) to trace figures in
- Cornflour (thick and thin)
- Hair gel/paint in a ziplock bag or a tacky back pouch for the child to manipulate with their finger, a glue spreader, or other blunt instruments
- Instant mash potato/water/food colouring
- Finger painting on a table top (then use a sheet of sugar paper to take a print)
- Window crayons
- Spreading glue on a sheet of paper and then sprinkling items such as lentils, dried peas, glitter etc. on
- Use of iPad apps such as:
  - Doodoo Lite- drawing pad
  - Kaleidoscope drawing pad

Take screen shots of the child's work and then print out

- Write Dance provides lots of examples of large movement mark making activities. Look at their site [www.writedancetraining.com](http://www.writedancetraining.com) for ideas and resources
- It is important to recognise some children do not enjoy messy play, and activities may need to be adapted. For example, using dry materials that do not stick to the child's hands, putting wellies on to stand in paint and then walk across rolled out paper

### The next steps

Once a child is confident in making a range of marks it is important to spend time establishing the 8 shapes needed for a child to be able to form all letters/numerals correctly. These are:



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