

## Mark making for babies

Providing lots of early mark making experiences will support babies to develop the muscles they need later for writing.

### Learning aims

- To explore different textures and sensations, using their hands and bodies
- To develop fine motor skills through the use of different materials.



### Resources

- Balls of appropriate sizes according to age
- Large sheets of paper
- Masking tape
- Nontoxic paint in different colours
- Spare clothes for the babies
- Camera for documenting evidence (optional).

### Activity outline

- Secure the paper to your floor space with masking tape
- Ensure the area is clean and any objects are moved out of the way
- Choose the size of the ball to match the baby's age and stage of development
- Drop some paint across the paper or have paint in trays for toddlers to dip the balls in
- Roll the balls across the paper to the babies to see what kind of mark, shape or pattern it makes
  - Rolling balls through paint provides an element of fun and unpredictability for children with their painting.

### Extending the activity

- Keep a camera nearby so children can capture their images
- Print off the photographs and make a book of the children's various art creations to share with parents.

### Special considerations

- *Be aware of any allergies your babies may have*
- *Ensure the paint is appropriate for use by babies and will not harm them if accidentally ingested.*