

How to explore large movement mark-making

We believe children need lots of opportunities to develop their motor skills to become successful writers.

Enabling children to carry out mark-making on a large scale is one of the easiest ways to promote this.

Learning aims

- Support fine and gross motor development
- Explore a wide range of different art materials
- Create different patterns with mark-making.

Resources

- Large pieces or rolls of paper
- Paint, spray bottles, chinks, pens, pencils, balls, cars, mops, trays (to put paint in)
- Extension idea - table (den).



Activity Outline

1. Lay out a large piece or rolls of paper indoors or outdoors
2. Provide a wide range of paints and tools e.g. cars, balls, paintbrushes, mops, spray bottles
3. Explore which tools the children would like to use
4. Encourage them to choose a particular tool for example:
 - Roll a ball in the paint and then throw them at the paper to make marks/patterns
 - Glide the cars through the paint and then across the paper to make tracks/patterns
 - Spray paint from spray bottles across the paper (you could add the paper to walls/fences so children can stand up to make their creations)
 - Submerge mops into paint and move across the paper to build upper body strength and explore different patterns
 - Use chinks and paint brushes to explore on larger pieces of paper
5. Encourage children to use their body parts too. For example, their hands/fingers/feet/elbows. They could even draw around their own body and/or shadows and/or other children's/toys/resources.

Extending the activity

Consider sticking pieces of paper underneath tables or better still, use chalk paint under the table. Allow the children to lay on their backs with paint, pens, and chinks, and create art work upside down.

This encourages stretching which helps to develop their muscles as well as motor skills. Cover the table with materials to create a den, and encourage the children to use torches to make the activity even more fun and exciting with added sensory opportunities!

Special considerations

Risk assess the equipment used and adapt appropriately for younger children.