



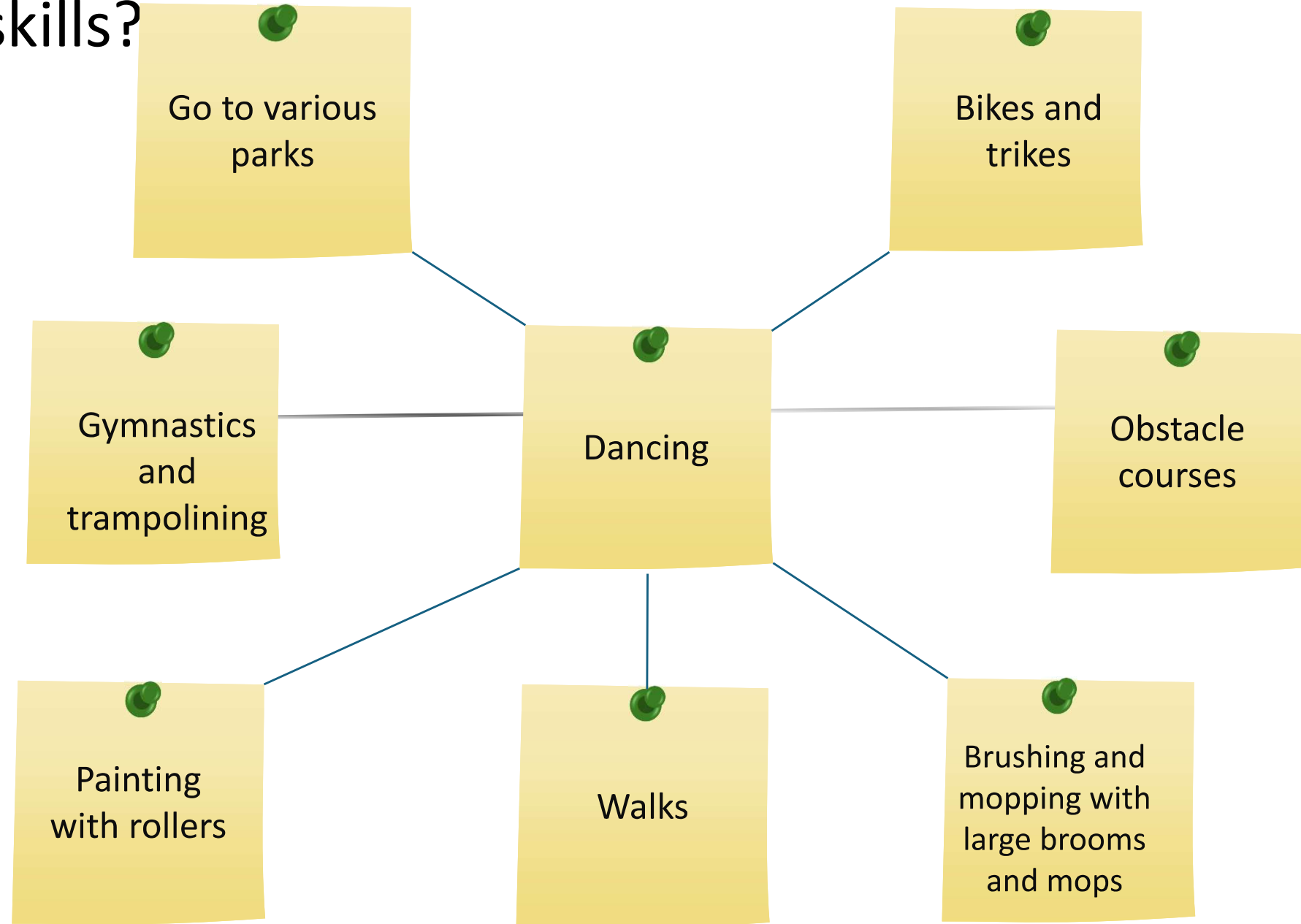
Writing in Early Years Harborne Primary School



What comes before writing?

We are seeing more and more children starting school with underdeveloped fine and gross motor skills; a prime area of learning. This could be due to the increase of children of preschool age using iPads etc. at home. The ability to write is a complex one, not only do children need to have the confidence to pick up a pencil and make marks on paper, they also need to be developmentally ready to write with a strong core and hand muscles.

What can be done to improve gross motor skills?



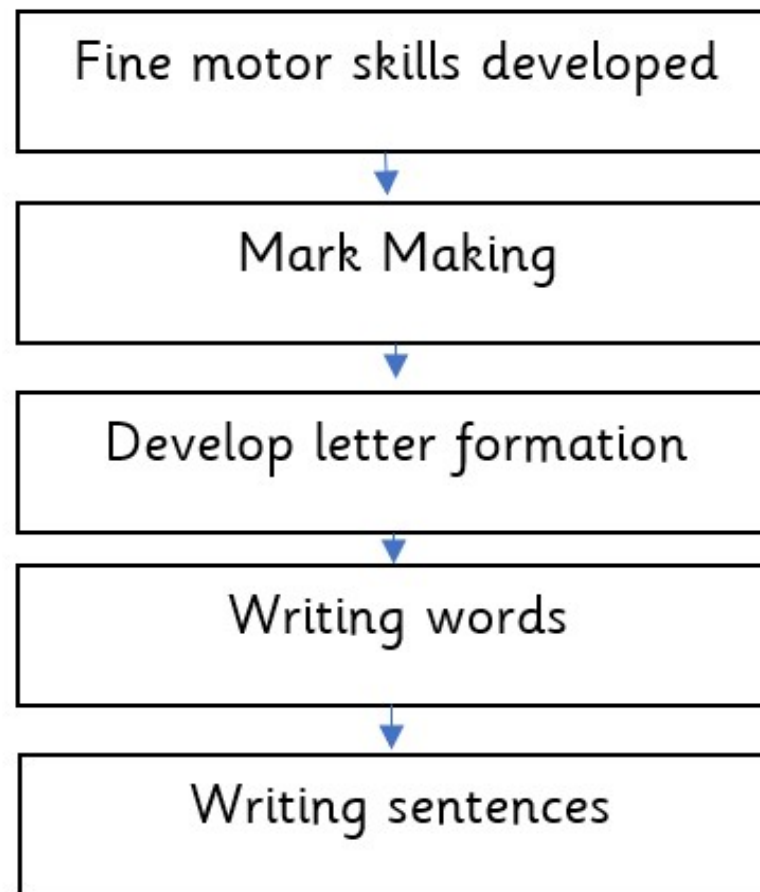
What can be done to improve fine motor skills?

- Playdough and clay
- Threading
- Cooking
- Woodwork
- Weaving
- Sewing
- Painting and finger painting
- Sand and water play
- Building
- Transient art
- Collaging



Stages of Writing

Children will begin with mark making and develop to pictures with meaning before finally beginning letter formation developed alongside the Early Years Staffroom phonics program.



Mark Making

Once the muscles are fully developed, we can move onto mark making with pencils.

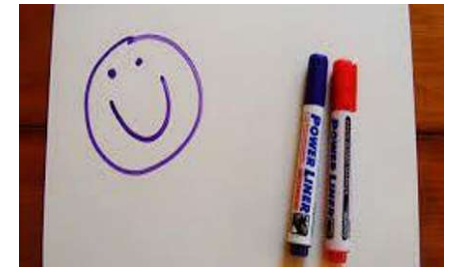
Resources we provide for mark making are:

- Chalks
- Paint brushes
- Mops and long handled brushes
- Sand
- Water sprays
- Gloop in trays
- Paper and pens
- Whiteboards and pens
- Paper on the wall inside and outside





Writing Technique



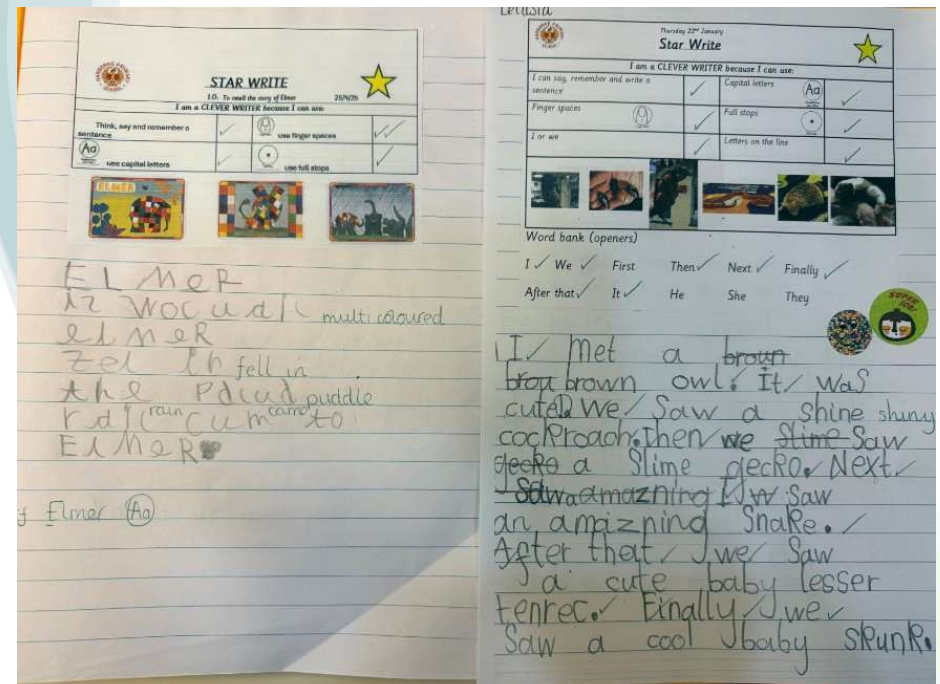
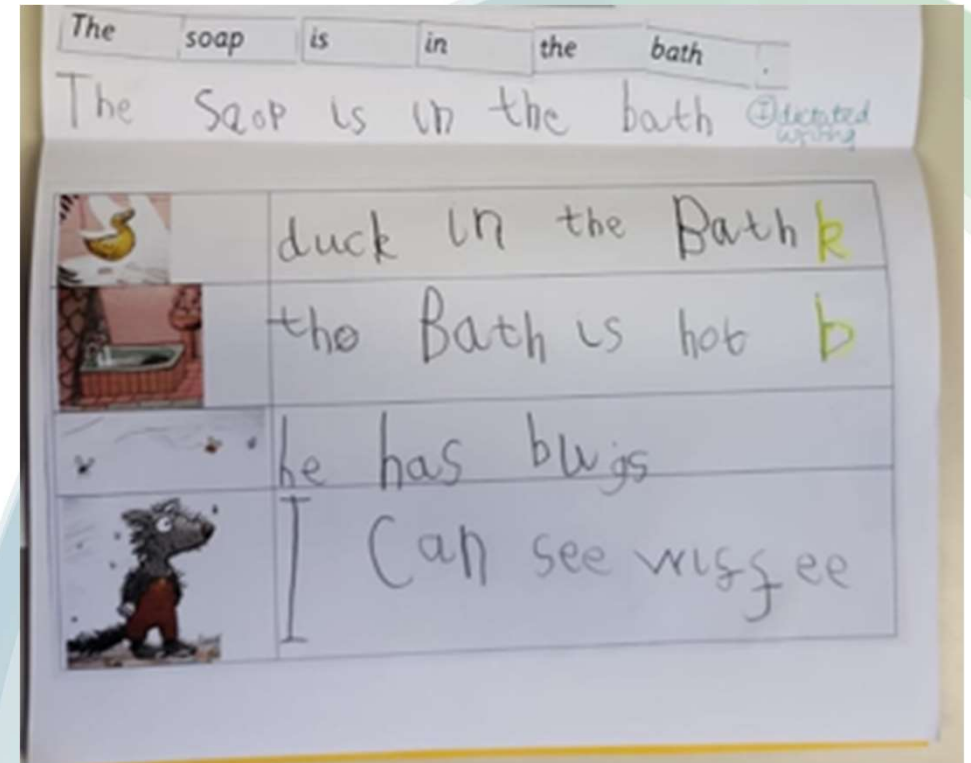
- It is important for children to learn the correct way to form a letter, from as early as they start writing, so that habits don't become an issue later. When we see children writing we try to help them by guiding their letter formation.
- We use sound mats that children can access which contain the sounds that children have learnt through our phonics scheme.
- We also practise letter formation on white boards during our phonics sessions

I am a clever writer

Skills based approach

Keeping things simple and doing them well

Works across the whole school

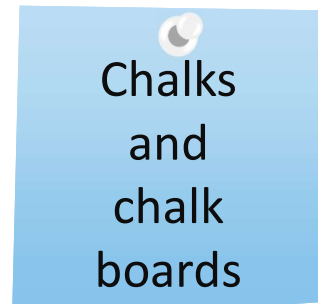


Mark Making at Home

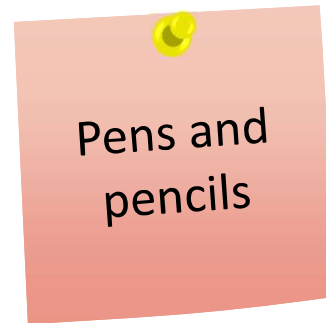
It is ideal to have resources available for children to mark make at home as and when they wish to, things they can access themselves for example:



Paints –
finger paints
and brushes



Chalks
and
chalk
boards



Pens and
pencils



Water
mats



I-Pad drawing



Sand – play



Post-it notes!



Old cards

Writing at Home

You can encourage your child to write at home for a purpose or for fun in the following ways.

- Writing message to their friends
- Labelling their construction work
- Writing song lyrics
- Labelling art work
- Writing thank you cards to others
- Writing birthday cards and invitations
- Helping you write a shopping list



Developmental levels of pencil hold



1 Whole-hand grasp: using a fistful hand.

- Around 1-2 years.
- Use of upper body muscles.
- Movement comes mainly from the shoulder with the arm moving as a unit.



2 Beginning to use the fingers: no longer using whole-hand grasp.

- Around 2-3 years.
- Use of forearm.
- Movement is still quite stiff but there may be some wrist movement.



a



b

3 Holds pencil between thumb and two fingers: no longer using whole-hand grasp.

- Around 3-4 years.
- Both of these grips are the crude beginnings of the tripod grip. The hand tends to move as a unit, with limited wrist movement.


Children at this stage need more experiences that will strengthen their muscles (cutting, working with dough etc.) to increase readiness for a precision pen hold.



4 Moving towards the tripod grip.

- Around 4-6 years.
- Holds pencil near point between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control.
- Finger movements and wrist now in play.
- Moving to a comfortable and efficient tripod grip: a precise three-way or tripod use of thumb, index and middle fingers.

Curly caterpillar letter family



c a d o s
g q e f

Handwriting

Long-legged giraffe letter family



l i t
u j y

Handwriting

One-armed robot letter family



r b n h
m k p

Handwriting

Zig-zag monster letter family



z v w x

Handwriting

Thank you



We will now take
part in writing
activities in the hall.