

EY Pedagogues meetings in the Mid Area during 2015:

Ideas to engage boys in Mark Making in the preschool

If you are stuck on how to engage boys in Mark Making why not try the tried and tested ideas below:

Boys like:

- Hands on activity
- Less structured
- Being outside
- Standing up activities

So, you may wish to explore some of the ideas below:

Mark Making activities (for both Indoors and Outdoors)

Using paint rollers and paintbrushes to mark make on the fence/walls/floor/ large and small cardboard boxes

Using large chunky chalk to make patterns/ write name/make marks on the ground/tyres/in trays

Sun cream game: draw around a friend with chalk on playground. 'dress' the body with clothes, colour with chalks on exposed areas to identify where sun cream should be applied.

Add powder paint to rain water on the ground, add large brushes to clean up.

Use brushes and spray / squirty bottled paint to large paper

Use squirty bottles and aim at laminated superhero pictures pegged up

Tape felt tip/crayon/ pencil to the front of cars, pushing the car along to create a pattern – also trains, dinosaurs in paint can be used to make prints

Use bingo markers/ paint dabbers to mark make on large pieces of paper taped to the floor

Add drops of paint to shaving foam, press paper on the foam, watch it transfer

Smelly pictures – use various pieces of sandpaper and different sized soaps

Make paint and freeze in lolly moulds/ put paint in ice cube trays with a lolly stick and use to draw/mark make

Playground shadow drawings - large scale work. (Could be followed up with what are shadows and spotting and making records of shadows.)

Message boards – photos with writing

Sticks (or any other mark making resource) in mud and/or flour, shaving foam, sawdust, salt

Whiteboard pens on mirrors

Malleable materials and marks on them

ICT – tablets, ipads

Self –risk assessment with clipboards

Making lists for model making

Signs- office, loo labels

Graffiti art

Paper aeroplanes (which they can decorate and fly outside!)

Large stones to use for pictures or writing

Ideas for outdoors: Bags for walks with paper, crayons, found objects for rubbing such as tree trunks, leaves, etc.

Involve children in the making a list for snack times- write it up together and go and buy it together!

Role Play

Role play (inside & outside) Making shopping lists/menus/ taking orders at cafe or pizza takeaway

Boys enjoy role play based on police, pirates and construction ideas! Use clip boards, make treasure maps (large and small individual papers)- also create maps on the floor with chalks, write messages from the phone calls to the police providing small note books!

Other themes that may interests boys are: superhero play, mini beasts, bathing babies, space, football, modes of transport!

Ensure that there is always reasons to mark make during role play!

Physical activities to promote writing

Promote gross motor skills by using ropes/ tree climbing/ large brushes etc

Ribbon dancing/ log transporting /track printing

Threading – use ribbon through fencing, laces through card or threading tools.

Thread cheerios/ hula hoops / pasta on spaghetti

Use pipe cleaners to thread through a colander

Make paper chains

Use ping pong balls to play finger football

Spray bottles with paint (again could be a very large scale, full gross motor activity)

Ride-ons with water on pavements

Lots of Malleable materials (play dough, clay, gloop etc.) for developing hand/finger strength

Cutting box to promote use of tools

Cooking activities, small pegs, tinkering, unscrewing and connect, small lego (risk assess!!!), tweezers, puzzles, wind up toys, threading, etc

General resources/ Providing a mark making friendly environment

Many Post-it notes

General background of words displays, ideally linked with boys 'interests

Adults modelling mark making/writing behaviours: making notes in diaries, writing messages, typing on tablets etc.

Be flexible – children don't mark make on demand, especially boys

Small Pencils (in size) to promote tripod grip

Envelopes, tickets

Interesting surfaces for mark making- firm favourite for boys- surfaces which they can mark make and then erase

Peg large paper in the fence; have paints available to use

Chalks, paper and chalk boards

Stampers