**Ideas to engage boys in Mark Making in**

**Preschool (2015)**

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