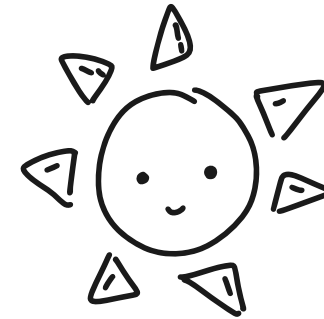
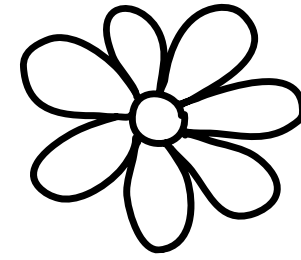




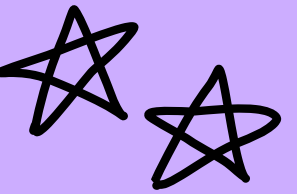
# FINE MOTOR SKILLS AND WRITING IN EARLY YEARS



Some of the ways we promote writing and fine motor skills through the children's experience are...

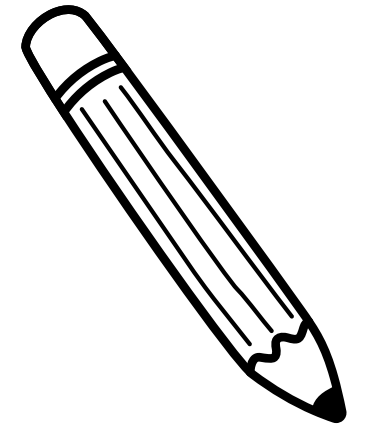
- Squiggle
- Dough disco
- Go Noodle
- Model writing
- Scribe stories and ideas
- Language rich environments
- Writing opportunities in all areas of learning
- Creating exciting, child-led opportunities
- Penpals handwriting scheme
- Cutting, playdough, use of pegs, threading, locks and keys, nuts and bolts
- Using tools

In order to develop writing skills, children need...



- Motivation and purpose
- Texts as multimodel constructs
- Exploratory and intentional mark making
- Symbolic marks
- Create meaning
- Using phonics knowledge to write

Writing is not the only component of developing fine motor skills - having strong fine motor skills also enables children to learn how to complete daily tasks independently such as being able to dress and undress themselves and use cutlery.

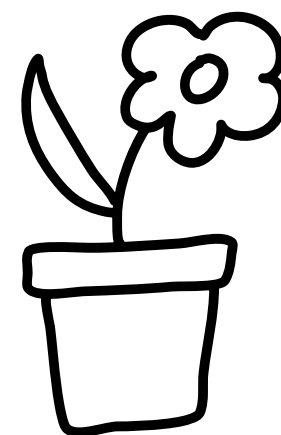


Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).



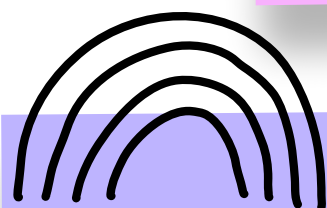
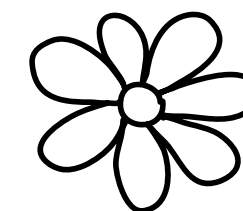
## Did You Know?

Children's muscles need to be active before the children are able to hold a writing tool properly with a tripod grip. Their muscles help them control the movements that they make when writing and drawing.



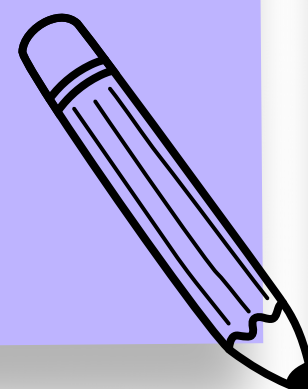
## Top Tip!

You can make your own playdough at home. It's a fun activity to create it, it saves money and it is great for imaginative play and fine motor skills.



## How Can You Help At Home?

- Paint and draw - encourage the children to discuss their marks
- Sand and mud play
- Chalk outdoors
- Playdough
- Make marks - lines, zigzags, swirls, waves, shapes
- Write numbers, letters and their name
- Pour their own drink
- Independent use of cutlery
- Independent dressing - velcro, buttons, zips
- Peg play - helping hang washing up
- Create shopping lists - pictures and words



## The Power Of Playdough!

Playdough helps children to...

- Develop fine motor and later writing skills through actions such as rolling and squeezing the dough
- Develop gross motor skills and muscle strength
- Boost confidence to join in with play
- Engage their senses
- Build core strength and maintain their sense of balance
- Coordinate movement in different parts of their bodies
- Learn to follow instructions