



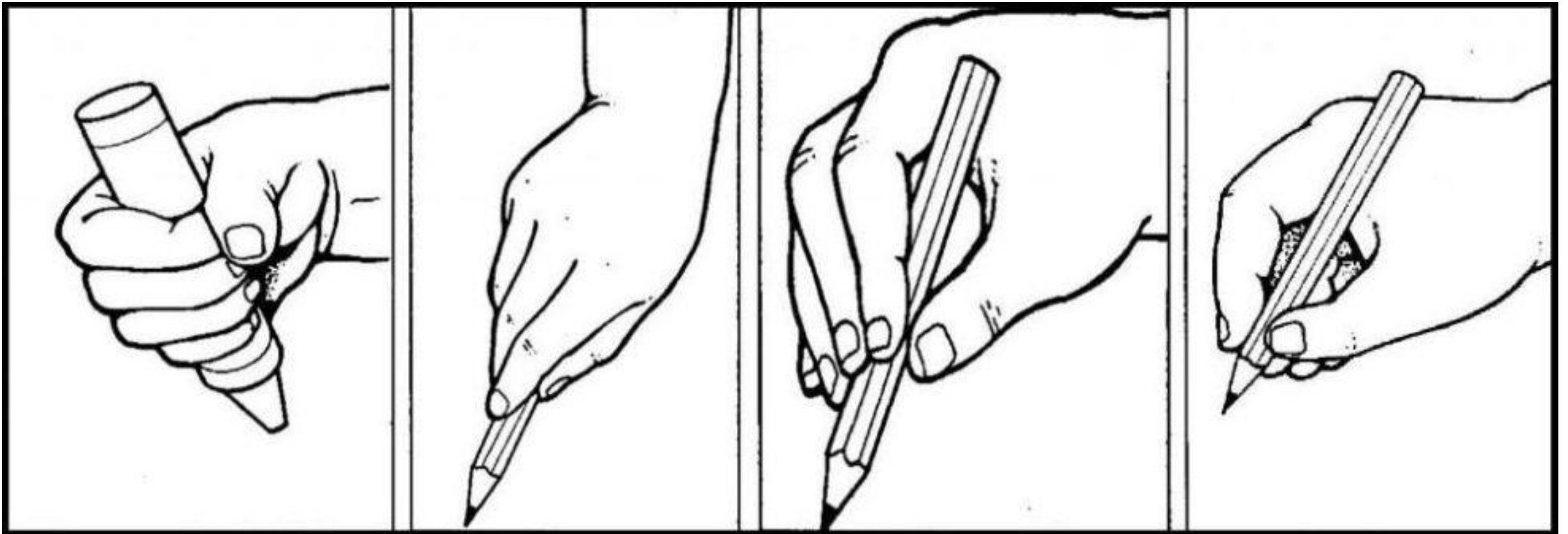
Teach the Parents

Getting ready to write

Pre-Writing Skills

- Before the children can write they need to have the physical skills, strength and dexterity to hold a tool, starting with core body strength through their shoulder - elbow - wrist - to fingers. In Nursery, these skills are practised in their physical play including climbing, using ribbons, throwing, stretching, rolling etc.
- It is also important we are supporting the children's fine motor skills through 'Funky Finger' activities such as; threading, learning to hold a pencil, using tweezers, pegs and many more.

Pencil Grip Stages



The progression from Pre-School to Reception



What is mark making?



Mark Making in early years (EYFS) refers to the improvised marks children make, which can be lines, dots, shapes or patterns. It is an important part of their development and contributes to early literacy skills. Effective mark-making activities include using chalk, paint, or using natural resources like sticks in mud.

What are the benefits of mark making?

- Children develop their communication skills
- They get to express their feelings
- Develop their information

Why is mark making so important?

It supports the development of early writing skills. Encouraging mark making in Early Years helps children to develop the following;

- Hand and eye co-ordination
- Gross and fine motor skills
- Focus and attention
- Imagination and creativity
- The ability to convey thoughts and feelings
- Story telling
- Problem solving



How do we encourage mark making in Early Years?

In Nursery, we provide the children with a mixture of adult focused and child-initiated activities that encourage mark making both indoors and outdoors.

We have clear learning zones that such as a fine motor table, a creative table and a mark making table which the children can independently access. We provide the children with different materials and tools for them to explore.

Each morning, we encourage the children to sit at the table, find their name card and trace their laminated card using a whiteboard pen.

Throughout their learning environment, there are visuals to support the children and encourage mark making such as alphabet letters etc.

Example of activities we use in Early years to promote early writing skills.



How can you support your child at home?

Talk to your child about the marks they make, ask them what they are doing, and describe what you can see, this will indicate to your child that these marks are important, and you value them.

Value any mark making your child may bring home from school and share any mark making your child has done at home.

Most importantly, have fun!

Examples of activities you can do at home

