



# WRITING – EARLY SKILLS

Parents workshop

# WHAT IS WRITING?

It is a representational way of:

- Recording events in our lives
- Prompting us
- Informing others
- Recording our creative thoughts and the results of our imaginings



# WRITING AT THIS STAGE NEEDS TO BE

- An inclusive part of a child's play
- Based upon real experiences
- Connected to other parts of the curriculum



# WRITING AS AN INCLUSIVE PART OF PLAY

- 'Play is the work of the child.' Maria Montessori
- The role that play can have is to help children to be active, curious, make choices, problem solve and practice actions to mastery.
- It should be voluntary, enjoyable, purposeful and spontaneous.
- In terms of writing it is easy to provide incentives to write within play.



# EXAMPLES

- Lists, price tags and bills in the shop
- Letters, envelopes and postcards in the post office
- Diaries and appointment cards in the hospital
- Message pads by the telephones
- Birthday cards and invitations in the house
- Scrap books, registers, squared paper and post-its
- Pretend café or restaurant – food order
- Games – The Shape Game
- Outside – chinks and water painting



# EMERGENT WRITING

- ‘Pretend’ writing will appear as squiggles on paper then letters appear as children become aware of them. Usually these letters include those in their name. Through their experience of books children will gradually learn that letters are grouped into words.
- The writing area is a visibly important part of the classroom. The children are encouraged to see writing as meaningful by engaging them in purposeful activities.
- These activities may be adult led or initiated by the child for their own purpose.
- The children have access to a wide range of writing materials and equipment i.e. scissors.





Emergent writing



## MOVING ON FROM EMERGENT

To encourage your child to move on confidently from emergent to independent writing:

- Value and encourage any attempt at writing (try not to correct spellings) They need opportunities to write without feeling that they have to be correct.
- Ensure easy access to a range of materials i.e. paper, pens, pencils, whiteboards etc
- Ask them to read back their squiggles/writing
- Collaborative writing activities / games where you scribe. Play together i.e. At the Cafe





# SCAFFOLDING WRITING

In school we develop early writing skills using various strategies:

- ‘Talk for Writing’ children given opportunities to explore, through talk, their creative thinking as a writer.
- Real writing experiences
- Scaffolded writing – where a highlighted line is drawn for each unit of speech. The children will then fill out the lines using scribbles, letters or words in sequence.
- Letter formation – practise forming letters using various methods i.e. writing in sand, whiteboards, outside



# RESOURCES TO SUPPORT

- Whiteboards and chalkboards
- In sand, on the beach, in mud!
- Maze books, tracing, templates and stencils
- Help where is my fridge!! – celebrate their work
- Sky writing –  
[http://www.ictgames.com/sky\\_writing.html](http://www.ictgames.com/sky_writing.html)
- Scrapbooks
- Journals
- Activity books of interest

