

25 Ways to Mark Make

Activity	What to do	Curriculum links
Making marks with trains/cars	Squirt some paint on large paper provide the children with a range of small world trains/cars of different sizes. The children will enjoy pushing these trains/cars through trails of paint, making different patterns with the wheeled toys.	Physical Development Understanding the World
Scrubbing brushes	Place paint in some trays and let the children dip the scrubbing brushes into the paint and then begin mark making on the paper.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design Literacy
Sand on a light box	Sprinkle some sand over a light box and let the children use their fingers to make various marks and patterns.	Physical Development Understanding the World
Shaving foam and powder paint	Place both the shaving foam and paint powder in a tuff spot and let the children mix them together. Once mixed, children can make various marks and patterns.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Paint in a zip lock bag	Fill a zip lock bag with paint and zip the bag up and place this on a table or even on the floor. Watch as the children use their fingers to make marks in the paint.	Physical Development Literacy
Shaving foam and paint brushes	Squirt some shaving foam into a tuff spot tray and provide children with different sized paint brushes to make marks in the shaving foam.	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design
Painting on foil	Fix a sheet of foil to the table and fill some pots of paint. Let the children use their paint brushes and paint to make patterns on the foil.	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design
Mud is the medium	Encouraging children to use found objects from outside like feathers, leaves, sticks in either a natural area or a tuff spot encourages the children to use their found objects to create marks.	Physical Development Literacy
Sensory trays	You can use different sized trays for this activity however, the tray needs to be shallow. Fill the tray with your choice of material: sand, salt, icing sugar, or even rice. The children can use their fingers, a pencil, or a twig to make marks and in the tray.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Natural materials	Provide leaves or dried flowers for the children to explore. On paper encourage the children to use the natural materials as mark-making tools.	Physical Development Understanding the World
Ball or marble in pain	Line a tin that has a lid with paper, roll a ball or marble in paint. Put it in the tin, put the lid on and shake.	Physical Development Mathematics
On the move	Develop writing tool belts, boxes or bags. Fill them with different size writing tools and media. Resources could include, clipboards, pens pencils, whiteboard, dry white markers and even chalk to encourage environmental mark making. Model how to use these resources to complement the children's play.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design Literacy
Finger painting	Place different coloured finger paints on table and let the children make various marks on paper, as well as mixing the colours together.	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design

Sticks in the mud	Get the children writing outdoors with sticks in the mud. Encourage the children to make large- and small-scale marks in the mud.	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design
Moon dust	Place tin foil in the bottom of a shallow tray and cover with black sand and a small amount of glitter for a touch of added sparkle. The children can then explore the moon dust with their fingers, making marks as they do this.	Physical Development Literacy Expressive Arts and Design
Clean mud	Grated soap, shredded tissue paper, scented essence, food colouring, and water. Mix and leave to set over night in a shallow tray. Provide the children with different utensils such as a ladle or spoon. The children will be able to make marks in the medium.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design Understanding the World.
Gloop	To make gloop you simply mix cornflour and water. You will need 2 cups of cornflour, 1 cup of water, two drops of food dye and a large container. Once the gloop has been made, the children will be able to explore the texture with their hands and fingers. Model to the children how they can make different movements and shapes within the gloop.	Physical Development Expressive Arts and Design
Spray bottles	Fill the spray bottles with water and food colouring. Place a large piece of white material on a wall (outside). The children will be able to spray the coloured water at the materials and make different patterns and marks.	Physical Development
Large-scale paper	Provide the children with large paper/rolls of paper and different mark making tools such as pens, pencils, crayons or chalk. Activities can include drawing around each other or even drawing around different objects of interest.	Physical Development
Coloured Ice	Make up ice cubes in the normal way, however, add food colouring or paint to the mix. The children will be able to use the coloured ice cubes as a mark making tool.	Physical Development Understanding the World
Parcel mark making	Wrap up blocks with drawing paper for an alternative to flat paper. The children then decorating them and with using different media such as pens, pencils, crayons and chalks.	Physical Development Mathematics
Food printing	Choose a selection of fruit and vegetables to make the prints with. Celery, onions, mushrooms and apples work well. Slice them in half. Let the children put the fruit or vegetables in some paint and make prints on different sized paper. You can even use the celery stalks as paintbrushes!	Physical Development Understanding the World Expressive Arts and Design Communication and Language
Buckets and paintbrushes	Fill a small sand bucket up with water. Provide the children with different tools such as, paintbrushes and rollers. The children can then use the water to dip the tools into. They would like to paint the walls or floors outside with the magic disappearing paint.	Physical Development Understanding the World Expressive Arts and Design
Animal tracks	Cover a table with paper, place different small world animals stood up in the paint. Then encourage the children to make animal tracks of different colours across the paper.	Physical Development Understanding the World
Large box mark making	Using any large box (if a child can fit inside safely). Provide the children with a variety of writing tools. Encourage the child to draw their own patterns and make marks inside and outside the box.	Physical Development Mathematics Expressive Arts and Design