

Home Education – Summer 1 – Week 5

Writing – Composition and motor skills

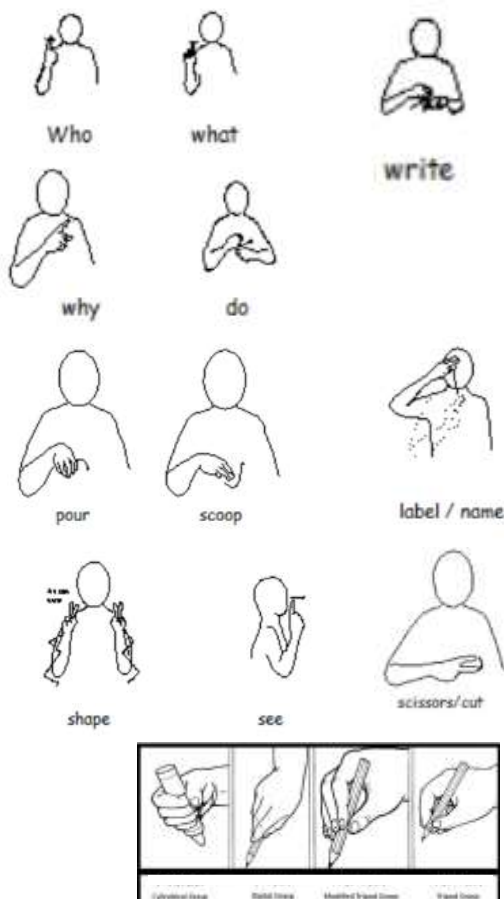
In the last 4 weeks we have been working on fine motor/mark making and writing skills within play activities, messy play, using a range of tools and working towards making pre writing shapes and letters. As well as this, we looked at some new Apps to encourage composition. Try to keep these going! Learners at Strathmore are on a variety of levels. Some learners are mark making and understanding that marks hold meaning and need to continue with consistent OT input e.g. messy mark making, fine motor skills, building up strength and preference in the hands. Some learners will be ready to compose but are not able to physically write, which is why some of the apps from week 3+4 will come in handy. Not all learners have to have the skill of transcription (handwriting) to be able to creatively 'write'/compose just by handwriting. Try to incorporate both mark making and some composition (where appropriate) into their writing sessions. PECS and ALD use are composition techniques if your child is commenting.

Youtube Videos:

Brush mark making with Lauren

Custard time with Lauren

Visuals and key signs:

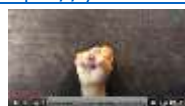


Concrete resources – what you'll need:

- Tray/blank surface to play on
- Brushes (range)
- Magazine/Newspaper
- Suitable Scissors
- Sticky labels
- Pens/pencils
- Custard/thick gravy
- Range of spoons/ladles, jugs

Video to introduce session whilst you get resources and area ready:

<https://youtu.be/fN1Cyr0ZK9M>



<https://youtu.be/o7U4jFs1jo4>



(even if it just helps to set the context every day)

Ideas for composition and handwriting activities:

- 1) Use a range of brushes with handles from your home to encourage mark making in different but more attractive ways. Dish washing brushes, old tooth brushes, dolls hair brushes, make up brushes. You may want to use something like coffee to mark make.



- 2) 'Newspaper collage'. Using an old Argos catalogue or newspaper, encourage your child to rip paper to build strength. If dexterity is already good, perhaps offer scissors and learners can cut out favourite pictures and stick them into a collage. You could find items that begin with the same letter and stick them inside that letter shape.



- 3) 'Labelling' things around the house. Using sticky notes or pieces of paper, help your child to write labels for items around the house. It is ok if they spell phonetically e.g. labelling the bath 'barth' or the picture 'picher'. If your child does not write and you have a printer, you could print your own labels and they then match. This is developing their understanding of labels and that letters/words hold meaning.



- 4) 'Custard/Gravy time!' – Use custard/gravy as a thick alternative to practice fine motor skills such as scooping, finding small objects inside, pouring with more control and mark making.

