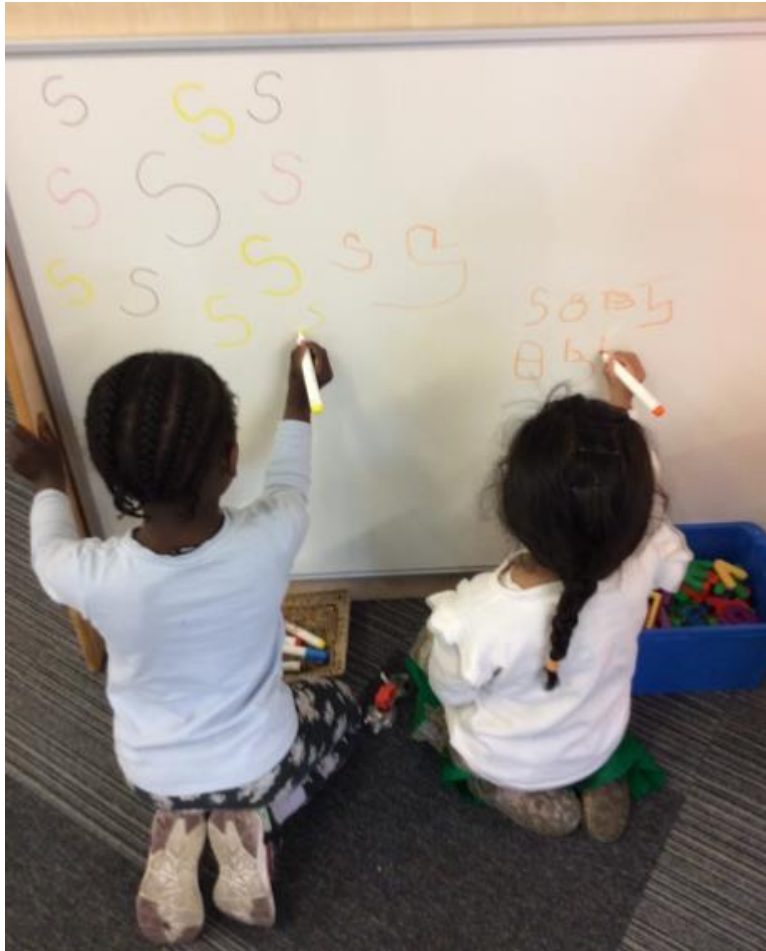


Writing in the Early Years

Have you ever wondered how children learn to write during their time in Early Years? These photographs will give you an idea how this difficult skill develops as your child grows.



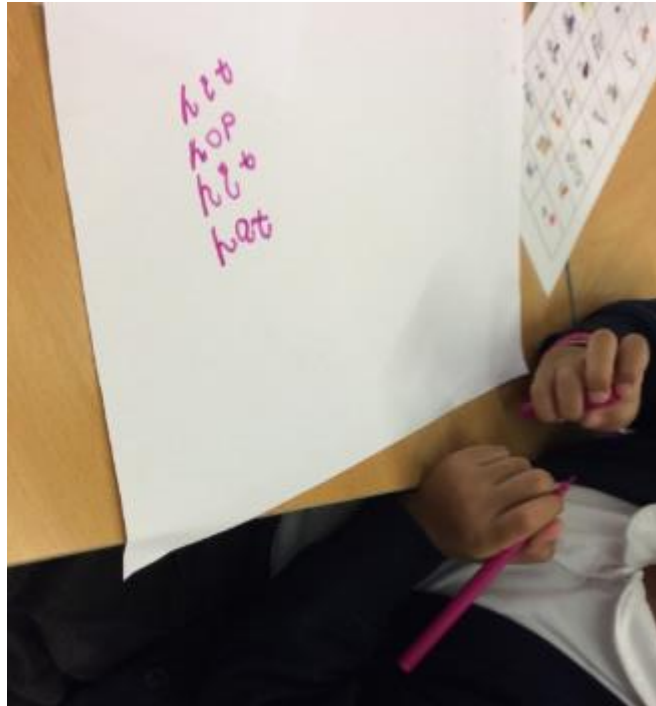
In Nursery, children are given lots of opportunities to make marks. These marks can often be circular as in this picture. Children are encouraged to move away from holding a pen with a fist and develop a 'tripod' pencil grip using three fingers.



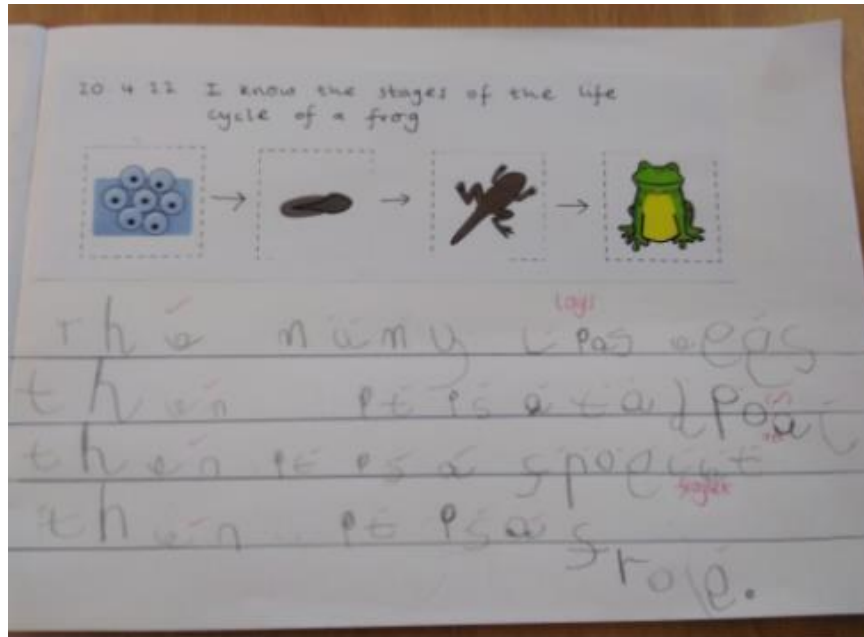
As children grow in confidence and experience, they start to write letter shapes, especially ones they know from their name.



Here is another example of a child writing letters he knows from his name, this time using chalk. Children in Early Years have access to a variety of media they can write with eg pencils, crayons and paint.



As children move into Reception, formal phonics teaching begins. This child can segment and blend words and can now write short words known as CVC words (consonant-vowel-consonant). This is a really exciting and important step!



By the end of the Reception year we expect most children to be able to write a simple sentence. This child has written four sentences: "The Mummy lays eggs. Then it is a tadpole. Then it is a froglet. Then it is a frog." Children may still need some support at this stage to know what they are going to write but they should be able to sound out the words for themselves. Using finger spaces helps the reader to be able to read the sentences easily. Some letters may be formed incorrectly but most are formed well. This child has reached the 'expected' standard and is ready for her work in Year 1.