

## Let's Get Ready for School Part 4

# I enjoy mark making

Does your child use their hands and fingers to draw, colour and paint?



### Mark making opportunities

*Although it is tempting to think about early mark-making as using a pencil, crayon, or paints, there are lots of different materials your children can use to make marks. This could include mark-making in natural materials such as mud, sand or snow. They can also use different tools to make their marks, including natural materials such as grasses, sticks and feathers. The key is that they're exploring the media in a way that is engaging and creative to them.*



### Don't Panic!

*It's fantastic if your child can recognise their name but we do not expect children to be able to write their name when they start school.*



### Writing is part of physical development

*A key area for development in the early years is around this physical aspect of mark-making – building the strength and coordination needed to make those marks to begin with. To develop these skills, play should focus on activities that promote both fine and gross motor skills. Ideas include: climbing frames/trees, swimming, playing catch, threading beads, playdough.*



### Useful websites

- <https://www.pacey.org.uk/parents/resources-for-parents/tips,-factsheets-and-downloads/mark-making-tips-for-parents/>

## Let's Get Ready for School Part 5

# I can use the toilet

Can your child recognise that they need the toilet, how to wipe themselves, pull their clothes up and down, flush the toilet and wash their hands?



### Steps to Success



### Understanding toilet rules

Using the toilet at school can be different to using the toilet at home for some children. Remind your child of the following steps:

- Close the door
- Underwear down
- Wee or poo
- Wipe
- Underwear up
- Flush
- Wash your hands

### Use the toilet on their own

Start by helping your child use the toilet, moving to simply supervising them. Having a poo can be tricky for some children, especially when it comes to wiping. Once they have mastered this, build their confidence with toileting by allowing them to go on their own. Get your child used to the sound of the flush. Whilst training your child, think carefully about the clothing your child is wearing. Make sure they can remove them easily.

### Praise

Remember to praise your child throughout this process.



### Useful websites

- [www.bbc.co.uk/tinyhappy-people](http://www.bbc.co.uk/tinyhappy-people)
- <https://www.eric.org.uk/poo-and-wee>
- <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/content/send-local-offer/landing-pages/health-landing-pages-and-content-pages/toilet-training/>

