

Boys can write when we support the areas of development needed to bring the skills together and make all the activities exciting and motivating.



pennywell
early years centre

Pennywell Publications (Version 2)
16.04.20

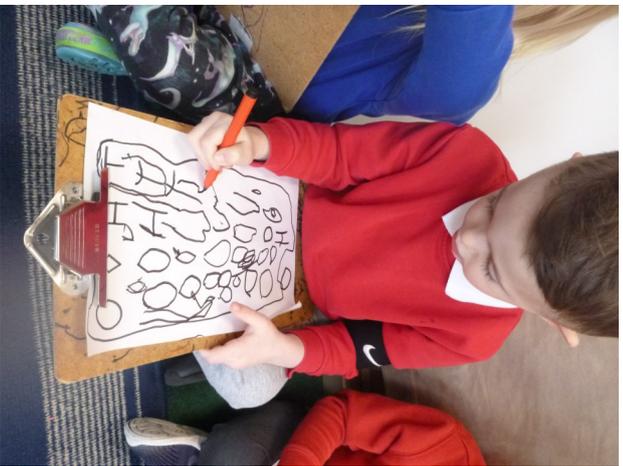
Boys Can Write
(with thanks to “Why Worms”)



All children are unique and reach their readiness in all skills at different ages and stages. It is important that children's motivations and special interests are included within the curriculum in order to inspire them to participate and have a go!



Writing emerges from physical skills and children's linking a sound with a letter and the strange symbols which make up the story text. This whole process is very complex and every opportunity needs to be seized to help children feel that reading and writing are lovely things to do and share in. The excitement of writing about their own tiger generates further interest in the story, the characters, the sequence of events, the emotional connections and links with their lives.



As with other areas of learning writing is supported by giving children lots of opportunities to make their marks everywhere. Making writing purposeful and part of role play inspires action.



Writing cannot be taught to young children by giving them a pen and paper. Children need to develop big and small physical skills and have strength and flexibility in the movements in order to become skilled in making the physical movements for mark making.



A combination of exciting resources and activities which children can emotionally connect with, share with others and talk about enables the different skills needed for writing to emerge and strengthen.



Children need to develop upper body strength, be able to sit in a comfortable and strong position and have flexibility in their shoulders and arms.
Riding a bike, climbing and throwing a ball help children become strong.

Once big physical skills are developing children increase their smaller movement skills. Simple gripping, picking, playing activities help to develop hand strength, control and movement. Playdough is perfect! Make it more exciting by adding different textures and smells.



Books everywhere!



We do lots and lots of activities to help develop children's speech, language and communication skills.



Visual prompts used with stories enable children in their mark making by supporting their understanding of language.



Other movements such as wrist rotation also need to develop. Lots of activities help with this. At Pennywell our woodwork bench incorporates nuts and bolts of lots of different sizes.

Another 'physical' feature in becoming a strong writer is the skill of making the marks needed to form letter shapes. We have lots of spaces for children to practice "developmental shape awareness"



Listening, attending, speaking and understanding are vital skills for writing. Good listening is needed to enable children to hear sounds and words, good attending is needed to develop auditory (hearing) and visual memory. Children need to hear lots of different words even better when they hear the word with the object or the action, understand those words and when they are ready use these words in their speech.