

## Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home – Number 24



### Let's "Write" a Letter!



Writing a letter to someone we care about is a great way to keep in touch and let others know we are thinking of them. Children naturally miss friends and family when they don't have opportunities to see them and often as they would like. Letter writing for younger children helps them to understand how to communicate their ideas and express their feelings and emotions.

It's also a great way to help children develop their mark making skills! Of course with young children you will need to do most or all of the writing, but it can still be "their letter" if you write their messages and include any drawing or marks they can make

#### What do I need?

- Mark making implements such as pens, pencils, or crayons etc
- Paper for writing on
- Envelope and stamp (optional)

#### What will your child learn from this play?

To develop fine motor skills and pencil control

To express ideas, emotions and feelings

That their mark making is valued, whatever it looks like!

How keeping in touch with people helps us feel good

#### What do we do?

- Gather together mark making implements and some paper
- **Talk** with your child to find out who they would like to send a letter to and what they would like to share
- Some ideas to include may be:
  - What they really like about that person
  - A fun moment they've shared together
  - What they might like to do when they see each other again
  - Or something new your child has been doing that they would like to share
- Depending on the developmental stage of your child, you may want to write down their words and add in pictures/marks they have drawn to illustrate the letter. Or your child may be interested in writing some of the letters and words themselves
- **Remember** each child's stage of writing development is different and valuing our children's mark making gives them the confidence to keep developing their skills.

#### How can you take it further?

Put the letter inside a stamped envelope, complete the address together and post the letter.

You could share the letter over another communication platform such as Facetime or Skype!

**Play & talk together**  
Be careful with too many questions

**Pause and wait for your child to respond**  
Copy what they say and add to it