



Road map to Progress EYFS – Mark Making Skills

2-3 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore a variety of mark-making tools such as chunky crayons, chalks, paintbrushes and fingers.
- Make random marks using whole-arm movements.
- Explore marks in sensory materials such as paint, sand, foam and water.
- Notice that actions create marks.

SPRING

- Create lines, dots and circular movements.
- Begin to hold tools with increasing control.
- Repeat favourite marks and patterns.
- Explore making marks on different surfaces and textures.

SUMMER

- Make marks with increasing intention.
- Begin to give meaning to drawings and marks.
- Draw simple shapes such as circles and lines.
- Explore a wider range of mark-making tools independently.

3-4 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore a range of mark-making tools, including chunky crayons, chalks, paint brushes and pencils.
- Make random marks using whole-arm movements.
- Experiment with different surfaces and materials.
- Begin to notice that marks can have meaning.

SPRING

- Create lines, dots, circles and simple patterns.
- Hold mark-making tools with increasing control.
- Begin to imitate marks made by adults.
- Give meaning to some marks they make.

SUMMER

- Draw recognisable shapes and simple pictures.
- Use marks to represent people, objects and experiences.
- Begin to include details in drawings.
- Show increasing control when using tools.



Road map to Progress EYFS – Mark Making Skills

3-4 year old

AUTUMN

- Explore a range of mark-making tools, including chunky crayons, chalks, paint brushes and pencils.
- Make random marks using whole-arm movements.
- Experiment with different surfaces and materials.
- Begin to notice that marks can have meaning.

SPRING

- Create lines, dots, circles and simple patterns.
- Hold mark-making tools with increasing control.
- Begin to imitate marks made by adults.
- Give meaning to some marks they make.

SUMMER

- Draw recognisable shapes and simple pictures.
- Use marks to represent people, objects and experiences.
- Begin to include details in drawings.
- Show increasing control when using tools.

Reception

AUTUMN

- Draw with increasing accuracy and detail.
- Form some recognisable letters correctly.
- Begin recording ideas through pictures and symbols.
- Develop confidence using a range of writing tools.

SPRING

- Form most letters correctly.
- Write recognisable words using phonic knowledge.
- Label pictures, models and creations.
- Begin recording simple ideas independently.

SUMMER

- Write simple phrases and sentences independently.
- Use writing for a range of purposes.
- Draw detailed representations to support ideas.
- Apply letter formation skills consistently.