

TALK to me outside



THEME: MARK MAKING

- Mark making refers to the making of different patterns, lines, textures and shapes. It often describes the marks that young children make on a piece of paper with pens, pencils or crayons.
- However, mark making is so much more than that, children are still mark making when they use their hands, paintbrushes, sticks, the wheels of a toy car - the possibilities are endless!
- Being outside is a great opportunity to get a bit messier and more creative with mark making. Fun and creative activities will really engage children and capture their interest. ***This will lead to lots of positive interactions where you can model and extend language.***

What to do...

-Early mark making can also be a sensory experience for little hands and fingers. Try large trays full of mud, oobleck (1 part water to 1.5 parts cornflour), shaving cream or any other messy play you enjoy. Talk about and describe how it feels and the marks you're making together - *"It feels **soft** and **squishy**, you're making **circles**, round and round, **round** and **round**"*

-Use buckets or pots of water and different types of brushes and sponges to make marks on the ground or on the walls outside. Talk about the marks each one makes. *"My brush only makes **small** marks, look your brush is much **bigger**"*

-Use natural materials like sticks, leaves and stones to make marks in wet mud - why not describe the sounds you make - *"**squelch**" "**splash**" "**plop**"*.

-Play Simon says with your favourite mark making materials - *"Simon says make a **splat**", "Simon says make some **dots**" "Simon says make **fireworks**"*

Step it up and make it more challenging



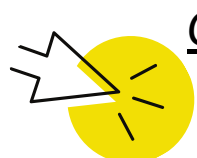
- Gather a selection of washable toys and something to make marks with. You could use paint and big pieces of paper or just water on the pavement. Take it in turns to choose a toy to secretly make marks with and then guess which toy made the marks.

You can model giving a reason using the word 'because' - *"I think the car made the marks **because** they look like tyre tracks"*
*"I wonder if it was the train because it has **smaller** wheels...?"*

- Add some paintbrushes, water and spray bottles to chalk play. Open ended activities like this will allow you to use open ended questions that will encourage creative and critical thinking. *"**I wonder** what will happen if we spray water on the chalk...?" "**What might happen** to the colours...?"*

I can sing a rainbow

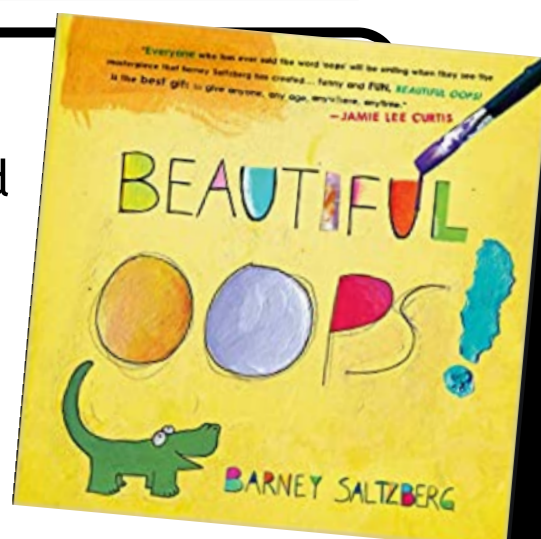
"Red and yellow and pink and green
Purple and orange and blue,
I can sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow,
Sing a rainbow too."



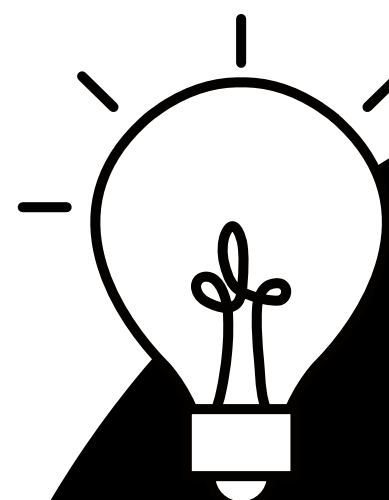
Click [here](#) to listen or search 'BBC school radio'

"Beautiful Oops" by Barney Salzberg

An interactive book with flaps, cut outs, tears and folds. A series of 'mistakes' such as spills, splotches and scribbles can become anything in this magical book about being creative and making a mark.



Click [here](#) to watch or search Beautiful Oops on Youtube



Did you know? The quantity and quality of children's early language experiences has a direct impact on their learning when they start school

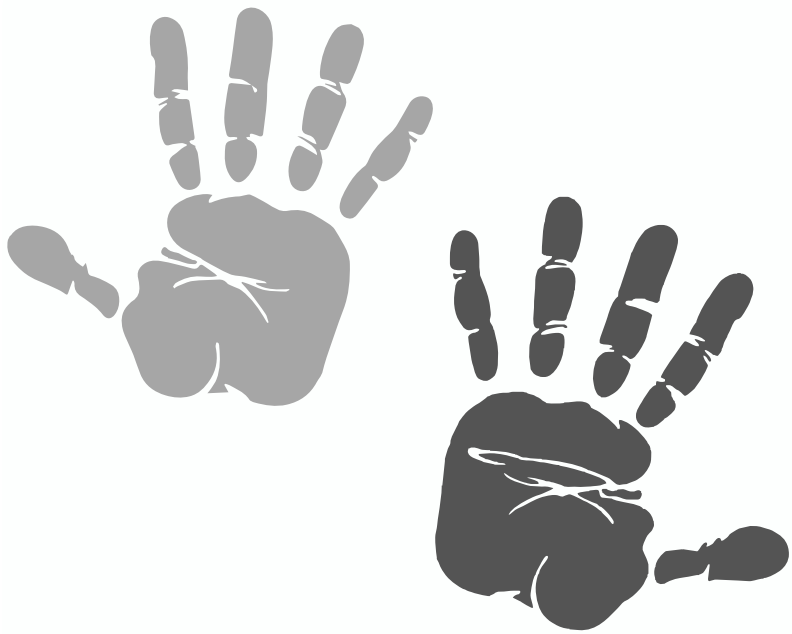
Lots of activities can be great for children's developing communication and language if you use them as a chance to have quality adult child interactions.

Chatting, playing, reading and singing will all help

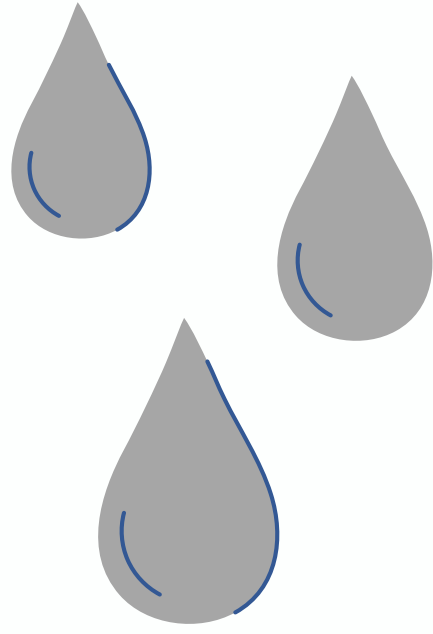
TALK to me outside

We've left some
spaces blank for you
to fill with your own
finds...

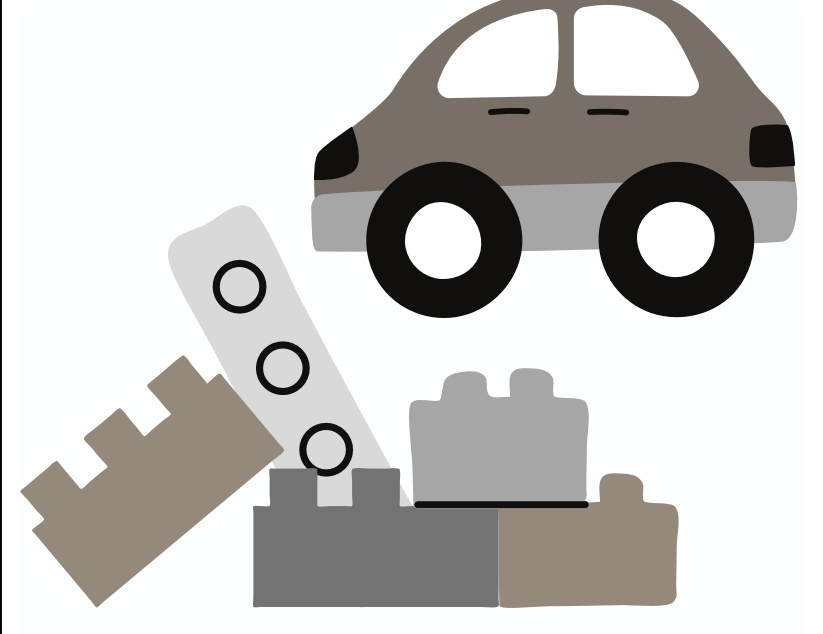
Use this activity board to help record all of the things
you make marks with!



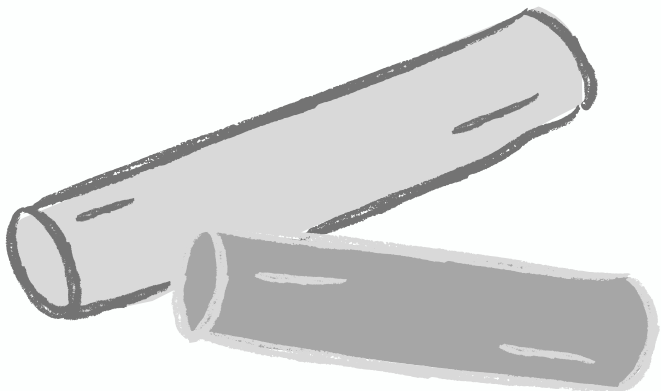
messy hands



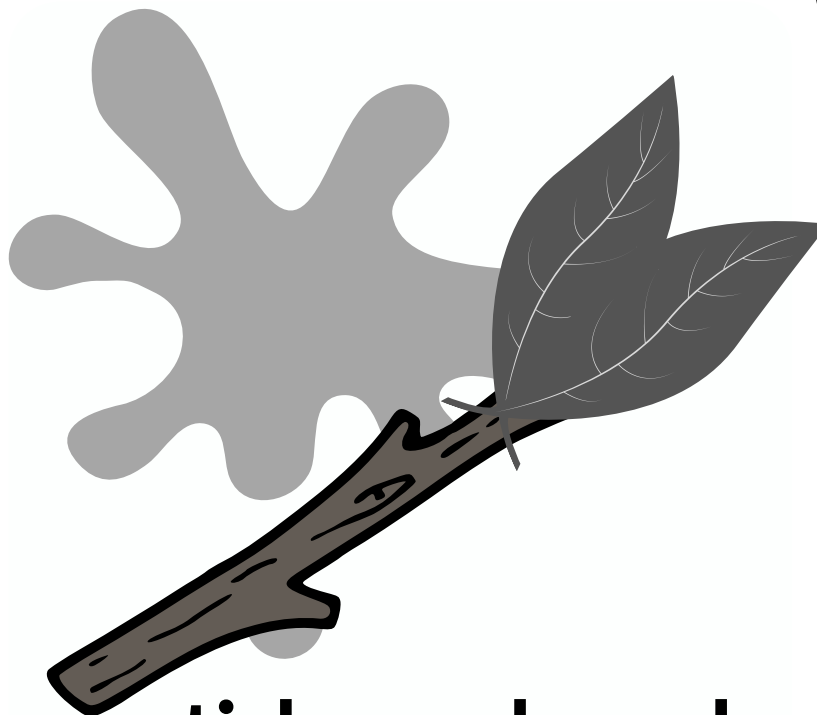
water



different toys



chalk



sticks and mud



squeeze and squirt

Draw or write about other mark making activities you do here