

Lumbertubs Writing Journey...

Symbolic writing and pre-writing shapes

Symbolic writing is typical of 3 to 4 year olds whereby marks do not fully resemble recognisable letter and number shapes but simply make marks in the direction print is being read, written or displayed in front of them. This can also be seen as copying because they are not necessarily linking letter shapes to sounds in words. These recognisable opportunities will be seen in letter, posters and books which is why it is important that there is a print rich environment.

Pre-writing shapes are the lines and shapes a child need to be able to draw prior to learning to write. They are the shapes which form letters, such as straight, curved and directional lines. At Lumbertubs, opportunities to write these shapes are in the provision for them to try and assessments are carried out to show the progress of the children so the staff know when they are ready for their next stage of their writing journey

Preparing for Mark making

Before attempting to get the best of out mark making, preparing for this is very important. At Lumbertubs we prepare children for mark making by ensuring that their strength for writing is strong. This can be done through kinetic letters animal positions to secure correct posture; fingers gyms which allows children to strengthen their muscles in their hands and shoulders; activities which include crawling, kneeling and lying down; and use of the outside area including large climbing equipment and tunnels, large tent pegs, bicycles, space hoppers and wheelbarrows.

Mark making

From age 2, the most common way of holding a pencil with a fist grip. At Lumbertubs we give children many opportunities to practice in a space that is big enough to accommodate their range of movements such as; making marks that go straight up and down, horizontally or vertically, as well as in large circles and dots.

Generally, at age 2-3 years old, children begin to make marks for meaning, which are usually for writing and drawing such as symbols which carry meaning. Although this is print, they are gaining more control over their muscles and the direction they want their marks to go and can often tell you about the marks they make.

Early writing

Early Writing at Lumbertubs is encourage throughout the whole day in all activities. When children have established pre-writing shapes, this is when formal kinetic letters sessions are used to support their letter formation and transfer this skill into the classroom environment. The structure of kinetic letters allows the children to continue to build strong muscles in order for them to form letters correctly. Lumbertubs uses 'Colourful semantics' to support sentence building and the use of words within a sentence before building their own sentences independently through inspired stories or events in which they have been exposed to.

Fluent writing

When children are confident with sentence formation and the meaning of sentences, they are then supported in lessons through toolkits, modelled texts with opportunities to continue to practice their writing. This writing is then progressive across the year and across the school. A range of writing genres are covered across every year group to expose children to different text types and the variety of skills they need in order to be a successful writer

...where the adventure never ends.

