

# Time to Try!

Fine Motor Skills

- Use spaghetti stuck into playdough or plasticine
- Rip, scrunch and squash paper to stick onto collages, pictures or cards; these could be gifts or cards for family and friends!
- Have an afternoon at the park – hanging off the climbing frame, pulling yourself up onto equipment, throwing and catching
- Design together, then build a model – use Lego, pasta, wood, pipe cleaners, card or junk
- Mix, whip, crumble foods into a bowl, add spoons/whisks to help!
- Get crafty with household things – make hats, models, gifts out of unwanted paper, reuse greetings cards, cut up old clothing for puppets
- TIDY TIME! Put on a song and see how much you can tidy before the song ends – encourage children to use clothes hangers themselves and to sort and pack boxes and drawers - the time limit will spur them on to do more
- Put things in envelopes and wrap items with old wrapping paper – the tucking and folding will require coordination
- Collect and create a 'tiny tin' or a 'tough tray' – use any items around the house or in the garden that you can only pick up with tweezers, (buttons, beads, pasta, twigs, pebbles, seeds etc)
- Pestle and mortar grinding – use seeds, leaves, scented spices to grind and make scented bags or yucky potions
- Colouring books – try to stay within the lines!
- Hang up your own washing line – use pegs to hang pictures, toys, treasures from walks to display indoors or out.

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Writing

- Leave little notes in special places for your child to find and reply to (characters, compliments, questions, silly rhymes)
- Decorate an old shoe box together and gather special writing materials for it e.g. themed paper, decorated pens/pencils, mini envelopes
- Choose a favourite photo together to use as a stimulus for a silly poem, an adventure story, comic strip or a 'lift the flap' secret note/book
- Bathrooms are the perfect places for performing voices! Make up rhymes, characters or role play a favourite story alongside the shampoo and toothbrushes
- Changeable objects game for sparking ideas: choose an everyday item and describe what it secretly is e.g. a fork is hairbrush for a mermaid or robot to detangle sea-swept hair or frayed wires. Gently encourage you child to make additions to their vocab here, adding suffix words and adverbs to their descriptions "carefully, angrily, delightful"

- Become a reporter for the weekend! Interview a family member on any subject, take notes and create an article. Take photos of a day out and create your own comic strip complete with superheroes! Write your own pages for fact books (dinosaurs, Lego/Frozen characters)
- Vocab Jars/ Journal Jars – fill these up with new exciting words to use over the week or 'imagine if...' 'favourite holiday/memory/animal etc'
- Practise Kung-Fu punctuation – ask your child about this!
- Provide writing opportunities, such as invitations, thank you cards, letters to friends/family instead of an email or text, or write to a favourite author (they often reply!) or your local newspaper on a real life issue
- Go shopping for a special notepad/paper and envelopes and pen ready to use for writing to family/friends
- Reflective journals are perfect. They are special and personal. Reflective journals can be used to develop the 'senses' of writing, sights and sounds, textures and feelings from a trip or experience
- Play word building games to develop descriptive vocabulary (Boggle, Scrabble, GuessWho, What Am I?)
- Design a treasure hunt (any theme) for another person to follow, include clue cards, forfeit cards and instructions
- Display children's writing in a special place, make frames for pictures, notes and poems and choose fun/unexpected places to stick these – bathroom doors, inside the coat cupboard, on the fridge or downstairs toilet!

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Writing

- Revamp your writing equipment to create brand new writing tools... a wand, a light sabre, an icicle...
- Re-use a space in the house to create your own writing shack. What will it be...
- Re-use forgotten materials to create books – wrapping paper, old notepads and incorporate stickers!
- Paint a cupboard door or part of a wall with chalkboard paint for your child to make marks or write notes to you.
- Involve your child as you write for different purposes, shopping lists, notes, greetings cards
- Write a wish tag to a real/imaginary person or character
- Play word building games together that help children create rhyming strings of real or imaginary words.
- Make it multi sensory – write into shaving foam with your finger; use sticks as pencils in the mud.
- Draw out and write your own Snap! Cards or Top Trumps.
- Send notes to family or toys, ask them a question and wait for a response through the letter box!
- Sensory Stuff! Make a list together of what you can see, hear, smell, touch or taste.
- Draw a map of the garden; create a magical journey, label the landmarks and scary spots!
- Collect items for a Story Box, pick one out and develop a story behind the item (a fork is a hairbrush for a mermaid, a button is the lost treasure of a Pirate Captain)