**Ideas for encouraging mark making, writing and for developing phonic skill**

Below are a list of ideas for promoting and practising both letter formation and phonics at home:

* Bending and forming playdough into letter shapes
* Baking cookies in different letter shapes
* Painting on an outside wall using water and a brush
* Large chalks on a chalk board or the ground outdoors
* Mark making with charcoal from the tip of a burnt stick
* Writing letters with your fingers in shaving foam, flour, sugar, sand
* Using foam letters or magnetic letters in the bath/on the fridge
* Finger painting to practise letter formation
* Using our arms and hands to write huge letters in the air
* Making letters or cards to post to family members and friends
* Using a computer to practise phonics skills/finding capital letters
* Creating letters with our bodies on the floor and taking photographs
* Using everyday objects such as cutlery, shells, pebbles to make letters
* Practise letters learnt so far using taught songs and actions
* Play word recognition snap by writing words on cards and turning them over to match up and read them
* Playing simple games such as eye spy or ask children if they can see something beginning with a particular letter sound
* Use magnetic letters or flash cards to build and sound out words
* Put items in a box, as your child to pick one out and tell you what sound it begins with
* Think up different words that rhyme or words that begin with the same letter and make silly sentences together

