

Scrimbling using

Write Dance

Scrimbling is Write Dance's word for mark making and encourages 'scribbling', 'wriggling' and 'doodling' movements. Use these ideas to get the children scrimbling

1 Goopy goop and messy play

This is a 'clean' messy play idea for those children who do not enjoy putting their hands in goopy substances. This activity involves putting the goop inside a self-sealing food bag and then the children can squish and squash to make the Write Dance shapes.

You will need one cup of cornflour; one-third of a cup of sugar; four cups of water; self-sealing food bags, food-colouring bags; food colouring.

Mix the ingredients, except the food colouring, in a saucepan. Bring to the boil, stirring constantly until the mixture looks like Vaseline. Leave it to cool, then fill the bags with approximately one-third of the mix. Add a little food colouring and seal the bag. Encourage the children to squish the bag, mixing the food colouring in.

This activity could be used with Kringeli-Krangeli or Pat-a-Cake (see 'Write Dance themes').

2 Fist full of crayons

Instead of drawing with just one crayon, invite the children to 'scribble' while holding as many crayons as they can fit in their hand. Remember to try and encourage them to hold several crayons in both hands.

3 A different kind of dancing

Make a maypole for the children to dance around, linking to the theme of 'Merry-Go-Round' (see 'Write Dance themes'). Using parachutes, encourage the children to move around in a circle, one way and then the other. Ask them to move the parachute up and down using big arm movements or make smaller up and down movements by shaking their wrists up and down.

4 Flashlight scrimbling

For something different, give the children torches to Write Dance with. This is great in a darkened room or outside as twilight falls. Link this idea with the 'Dear Sun Dear Moon' and 'Tree and Fairy Lights' themes (see 'Write Dance themes').

5 Bread painting

Invite the children to scribble on bread. Using the bread as paper, the children can use paintbrushes or cotton buds dipped in food colouring to make the marks. Toast the bread for the children and encourage them to see what happens. They can also try scrimbling on other food items, for example using coloured icing pens on biscuits.

6 Icing bag scrimbling

Make a mixture using shaving foam and a small amount of PVA glue so that it keeps its form. Spoon the mixture into piping bags, give them to the children and encourage them to squirt the mixture to make patterns and shapes. You could add some food colouring for added effect.

7 Move in your space

Lay out an obstacle course where the children have to weave a beanbag around it with a broom stick. Lay out different shapes for the children to move in and out of, such as hoops.

Instead of using ribbons on sticks, try using cheerleader pompoms, which are great for 'The Rainbow', 'The Gateway' and the 'Water Chutes' (see 'Write Dance themes'). For smaller children, who might find it harder to hold pompoms or ribbons, tie some different lengths of ribbons on to hair scrunchies and let the children wear them on their wrists.

8 Using the outdoors

In your outdoor area, encourage the children to carefully use different gardening tools to make marks in mud or sand. If it has rained, help them to draw around puddle shapes using chalk and then invite the children to drop some paint into puddles and make a puddle scribble. These ideas could be linked to the 'Water Chutes' (see 'Write Dance themes').

9 More tools for scrimbling

Encourage the children to practise 'scribbles' using commercial toys such as 'Magnadoodles', or more specific resources such as 'Magnetic Writing Gel Boards' or 'Magnetic Wands'.

Offer the children different tools to scribble with, such as toothbrushes, nailbrushes, combs and hairbrushes. Let them try scrimbling on Perspex using window markers or create Write Dance T-shirts by making scribbles on fabric using fabric paint.

Write Dance themes

Home	Funfair	Sensory Motor Experiences for Writing	Potential Links to Early Years Themes and Topics	
			Home	Funfair
Sandy Hill	Watermill	Practises up and down movements	● Seaside/ Summer	● Power and Forces
Kringeli-Krangeli	My Dinky Car	Practises swinging movements and lines	● All About Me	● Transport ● Toys
Pat-a-Cake	Merry-Go-Round	Practises circular movements	● Celebrations	● Fair ● Circus
The Stair Case	Procession	Practises angular movements and rhythm	● Homes and Houses ● Construction	● Celebrations ● Circus
Toy Train	Air Train	Practises looped movements in an upwards and downwards direction moving both quickly and slowly	● Toys ● Transport	● Toys ● Transport
Tickle Tree	Tree and Fairy Lights	Practises quick short movements	● Autumn/ Harvest ● Growing Things ● Life Cycle	● Christmas
Little Water Shute	Big Water Chute	Practises swaying/ wavy movements	● Water/Ocean	● Water ● Boats
The Rainbow	The Gateway	Practises arched movements	● Weather ● Colours	● Weather ● Colours
Little Sun	Dear Sun Dear Moon	Combines straight and circular movements	● Weather/ Summer	● Light and Dark ● The Sky
Straight, Bent, Cross, Happy		Amalgamates all lines and patterns	● Emotions	