

# Chalk and Talk



## What you need:

- Some playground chalks.
- Spaces for the children to draw, mark-make and write - this might be the pavement, playground, or specially prepared boards painted with blackboard paint. Try and make a variety of sizes available so children can use a mixture of large movements (gross motor) and smaller fine motor skills.

## What you do:

- Encourage the children to use the chalks outdoors for a variety of child- and adult-initiated activities. These might include pattern making, drawing and writing. Show the children how to mark-make using both their right and left hands. This will support right/left brain integration and help develop the manipulative skills necessary for later work in handwriting.
- Literacy achievements realised outside should have equal status with those achieved indoors. Have a camera at the ready to record significant achievements that can be shared with others, such photographs can make valuable contributions to children's learning journeys.

## Further possibilities:

- Work with the children to design a variety of games that can be chalked on to the playground or blackboards. Painting a board with magnetic paint will mean that the children can use magnetic pieces in their games.
- Show the children pictures and photographs of street artists at work and encourage them to put in as much detail into their pavement art as possible. As you talk with them about their drawing you will really help to develop their narrative skills. Drawing in this way will also help to develop the visual discrimination for later work in handwriting.