

Making Lines

*You made a long,
straight line!*

Describe the marks your child makes with his fingers or a stick.

This encourages your child's awareness of the many kinds of marks that he can later use in drawing or writing.





Why this is important

Children enjoy making marks. With practice, he will become aware of the feeling of his hands and arms as they draw lines. He will begin to notice and feel the differences among the marks he makes. Pointing out the shapes of lines helps him see the variations he has accidentally made happen. These steps will help him when he begins to use his hands for more complex tasks such as controlled scribbling, drawing, or writing.

What you do

- Talk about what your child is doing when you notice him tracing his finger over a flat surface. *You are making a wiggly line.* Trace your finger beside his line and tell him you are making a wiggly line like his.
- Look for interesting places around the house to practice making lines. Trace lines with your child on a steamy window or mirror. Talk about what he makes. *That is a straight line. That line is curved.*
- Show him how to spread his fingers apart and make a series of lines or make a fist and create a wide stroke. When playing outside, show him how to use a stick to draw in the sandbox, dirt, or mud.

Another idea

Put a few cups of sand in a baking dish. Encourage your child to use his fingers to make lines in the sand.

Let's read together!

When a Line Bends...A Shape Begins
by Rhonda Gowler Greene