

Ideas and Inspiration for the Illuminated Mark Making Boards

In the early years, fostering a love for learning and building the foundations is crucial. One exciting resource that can light up the world of early writing and mark making is the TTS Illuminated Mark Making Boards. These versatile boards have a “wow” factor that captivates young minds, making them an excellent tool for a wide range of activities.

The glowing boards are perfect for enhancing various areas of learning, such as spelling, phonics, and maths. Engage children by using the boards as a captivating visual aid during lessons or play, making learning a memorable and enjoyable experience.



Whether used for creative drawing, practising letters and numbers or exploring patterns, these boards offer endless opportunities for learning and development. In this download you will find a collection of ideas for using the illuminated mark making boards in your setting. Many thanks go to Sarah Brown, an experienced Early Years teacher and leader, for contributing to these ideas.



Early Technology and Sensory Exploration

Exploring Cause and Effect

By demonstrating how pressing the button changes the colours on the boards, children can learn about stimulus-response and cause-and-effect relationships. These concepts are essential for cognitive development and fostering critical thinking skills.

Exploratory Glow Experience

For younger children, place the boards among other glow items to create a discovery zone. This setup encourages exploration, experimentation, comparison, and contrast, promoting sensory and cognitive development. It can help children to relax, calm down, and self-regulate whilst being active learners.



Sensory Play

Create an immersive learning environment by placing the boards in a sensory room. The illuminated display adds a vibrant touch, making the sensory experience more interactive and engaging. It's a fantastic addition to incorporate ICT into sensory play.

Interactive Instructions

Display instructions on the boards and pair them with control vehicles like Bee-Bot and Blue-Bot. Children can plan their journey, record each step, and develop early programming skills, all while enjoying the glowing allure of the boards. Why not use these boards to write important messages. They will definitely stand out and draw attention.

Mark Making and Inspiring Writing

Early Mark Making and Patterns

Use the illuminated boards to encourage early mark-making activities. Children can have fun creating patterns and shapes using vibrant chalk marker pens. This hands-on experience promotes fine motor control and visual spatial awareness, setting the stage for more complex writing skills. The ease of writing on the board and the sensory feedback given allows children to enjoy the experience, developing a love of mark making. Fantastic for encouraging children to hold and use writing tools correctly and make marks.

Handwriting Practice

The glow of the boards adds an element of excitement to handwriting activities. Children can practise letter formation, improving their penmanship while being captivated by the illuminated display. Providing opportunities for children to copy writing letters, words and writing their own name. Who wouldn't want to write their name in lights!



Boosting Engagement

Reluctant or cautious writers may find the boards particularly appealing. The ability to easily erase any errors provides a low-pressure environment, encouraging children to take risks, explore their creativity, and record their ideas without fear of making mistakes. The glowing surface helps to capture their attention and helps them to stay engaged with their mark making for longer periods. The boards give them opportunities to write anywhere, outside, cosy in the reading corner, or even under the table!

Creativity and Imagination

Role Play Adventures

Immerse children in imaginative play scenarios by placing the boards in different role-play areas. Whether it's a café with a daily menu, a fruit and vegetable shop, a hairdresser's salon, or even an airport with flight announcements, these glowing boards add an authentic and exciting touch to pretend play experiences.

Superhero Missions

Transform the learning environment into a superhero haven. Encourage children to dress up as their favourite superheroes and write about their missions. Practitioners and teachers can assign tasks, promoting storytelling, creative thinking, and literacy skills.

Out of this World Space Adventures

Enhance space-themed play by incorporating the illuminated boards. Whether counting down for a rocket launch or recording findings on the "moon's surface," the boards add a sense of excitement and interactivity to astronomical explorations.



Creative Area

Set up an art area for shared drawing experiences and creating imaginative pieces of art. The glowing surface will help to capture their attention, making the process of creating lines, shapes and designs even more exciting. The illuminated boards offer a unique canvas for children to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas visually, encouraging creativity and exploration. The light up boards will help to bring their creations to life.

Making Learning Shine

Lighting Up Learning

Change the colours of the boards for a multi-sensory element. Use the boards in maths sessions for children to engage in building fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as they write sums, sequences and answers on the boards.



Treasure Hunt Activities

Write clues on the boards and organise a treasure hunt for children to find the next illuminated board. This activity combines reading, problem-solving, and gross motor skills as children search for the hidden messages and treasure.

Light Up Your Displays

Encourage the children to write messages on the boards or key facts that can be placed on or around displays in the classroom or setting.

Why not write key questions on the board for the children to answer or add key information and facts that they need to learn and remember. To make it even more interactive, place sound buttons next to the boards with the questions and answers on.

Tidying Away and Responsibilities

Who would have thought that tidying up could be so engaging! Develop those important muscles in the shoulders and hands by giving children the responsibility of wiping the boards clean at the end of a day or session, with a damp cloth. This not only creates a blank slate for the next person using it but also gives the children a sense of responsibility. You could even have a rota for board cleaning monitors!