



Welcome to the second of our “Stepping Out” activity sets.

We have had a question about whether children are expected to recognise and write their names when they start in Reception Class. Partly this depends on your child’s name - it is easier to be able to write Tom, for example, than Beatrice! Children’s fine motor skills also develop at different rates and play a big part in writing. So the answer is, your child should be encouraged to feel confident about making a set of marks that represent their name - some will use clear and correct letter formation, others will be evolving. Recognising his or her own name though, will be a very useful to them and help them to find their belongings when they are at school. Here are a few ideas for fun ways to support this.

- ★ Roll out their name in play dough. You can find a playdough recipe in the Play At Home section of our website <https://www.theplace-faringdon.org/parents> Playdough activities are also great for developing finger strength, which helps with mark making.



- ★ Label their belongings with name labels. - you can use a roll of sticky labels to make temporary ones for a game.
- ★ Write their name in glue for them to stick onto using some homemade collage scraps



- ★ Write their name on paper with a candle or wax crayon for your child to paint over with watered down paint.
- ★ Make and decorate a name sign together for your child to hang on their bedroom door, bed or coat peg.



- ★ Play “Spot the Letter” when you’re out and about, looking for your child’s initial. (Please remember it is important only to use a capital letter for the beginning of your child’s name - the rest should be lower case.)

We hope you have fun with some of these ideas.

Joanna and Sue

