



THE HONEYCOMB HYPOTHESIS


Designing Environments


The Honeycomb Hypothesis uses the honeybee and its behavior movements to help us understand how young children learn.




MARK MAKING & PATTERNS OF PLAY

Young children love to express themselves through mark making. Mark making is simply the act of creating different marks on available surfaces. By giving children the opportunity to make marks on a variety of surfaces, they are practicing not only Patterns of Play, but also developing hand, arm, and shoulder muscles.

 Sandra Duncan
8646 Long Lake Drive
Scotts, MI 49088

 219-743-2923

 DrSandraLDuncan@gmail.com

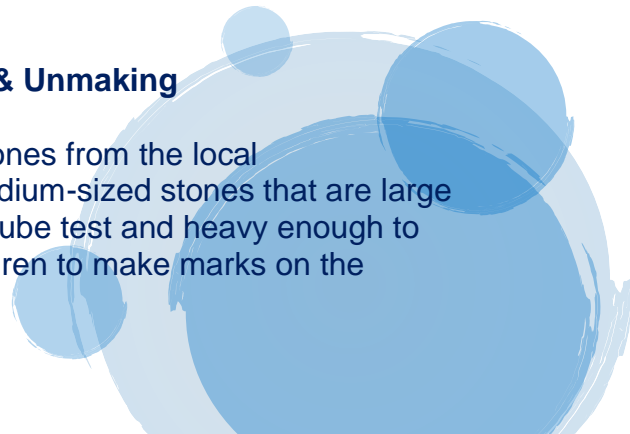
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Mark making is the act of creating different lines, squiggles, and marks on a surface.

<u>Mark Making Surfaces</u>	<u>Mark Making Tools</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves (Large & Flat) • Scrap Pieces of Wood • Slate/Tile/Granite • Sand/Mud/Clay • Large, Heavy Stones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamboo Pieces • Plungers/Potato Mashers • Fly Swatters • Toy Vehicles/Wheels • Spray Bottles

Making & Unmaking

Stone Painting. Gather stones from the local neighborhood. Look for medium-sized stones that are large enough to pass the choke tube test and heavy enough to hinder throwing. Invite children to make marks on the





stones with Tempera paint (making) and then encourage them to wash the paint off (unmaking) with the garden hose or a bucket of water.

Stone Stacking. Select rocks that are too heavy to throw and large enough to pass the choke tube test, but light enough for two-year-olds to successfully roll and carry for short distances as well as stack them in a pile. Begin with just one or two rocks and then increase the number over time so children become acclimated to them, and you can carefully monitor. Encourage children to stack (making) and unstack (unmaking) a small tower of rocks.

Propelling & Hindering

Spray Chalking. Children can make marks on sidewalks, in the sandbox, or even on snow. Follow this simple recipe by mixing these two ingredients in a spray bottle and shaking vigorously:

- 2 Cups of Water
- 8 Tablespoons of Cornstarch

First, encourage children to make chalk marks on the sidewalk or other surface. After markings are made, use the spray solution to unmake the marks. Children control the starting and stopping of the water spray, so they are practicing the play pattern of Propelling & Hindering. Children also practice Making & Unmaking when they make the chalk marks and eventually wash them away by spraying or painting water onto the marks.

Potato Masher Prints

Scout around resale shops to find a variety of potato mashers. These metal mashers have holes and leave unique patterns on surfaces. Offer different colors of paint and the mashers—and stand back to watch the magic appear!

