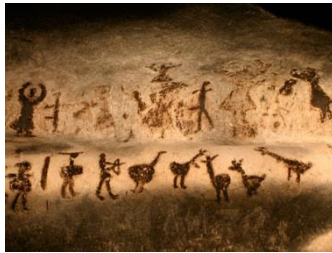




When is a scribble not a scribble?

When it is in fact your child's emergent writing and a way for them to visualise their thoughts and feelings.

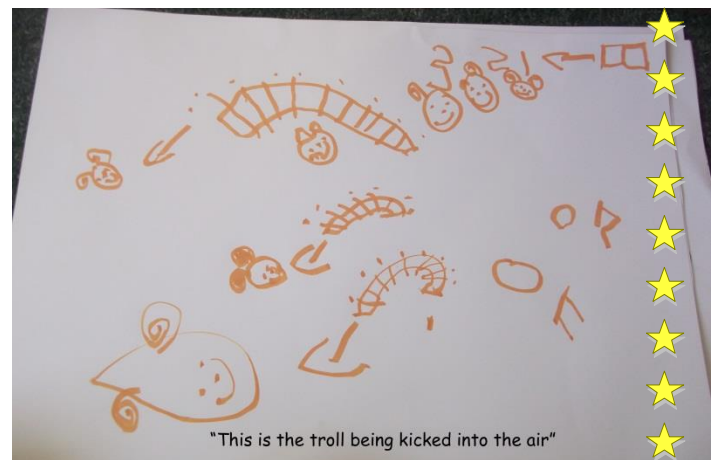
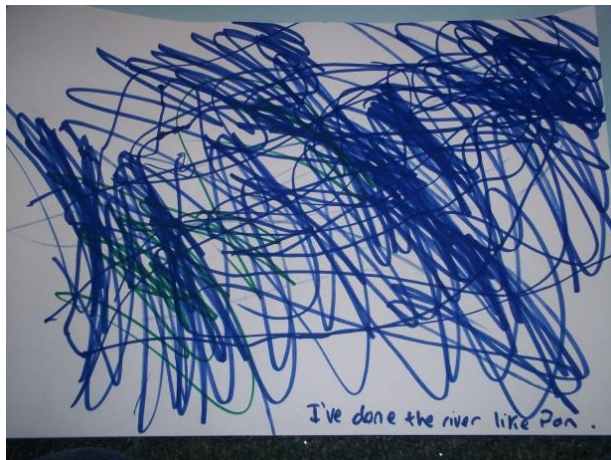


These early cave paintings are now accepted and recognised as the first scripts and a way of conveying meaning and telling a story.

Whilst we no longer live in caves, if we treat our children's early attempts at drawing as a form of thinking and communicating then we value "writing" as a process rather than an end product associated with "handwriting" and letter formation.

A parent commented to me a while back her surprise when suddenly her daughter's scribbles turned into "drawings".

That is why the first is just as important and worthy of praise as the second picture:



Without the first, the second can't grow. In the process of moving from one thing to another they are discovering their voice, and how to express themselves and if those initial attempts are met with scorn and dismissal as a mere "scribble" then what incentive have they to continue with their efforts at penmanship? Early literacy should be embedded in talk and shared experiences which is why if you ask a child to explain what they are drawing 9 times out of 10 it is either of their family or a passion ("lightning McQueen" or a digger). As they draw (or "write") they are thinking so ask what's happening in their pictures? Remember also to praise the *process* and not the product, so "wow: well done, I can see how hard you have worked on that" rather than "wow what a great princess you have drawn!"

So frame both of these pictures



in recognition of true works of art, stories unfolding and the start of your child's exciting journey to writing and story telling.

And one of the cheapest, most beneficial resource you can buy your children today are these:

