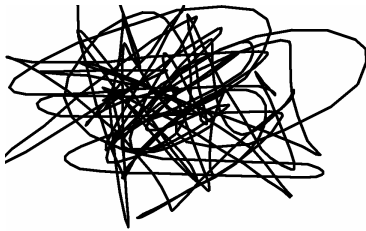


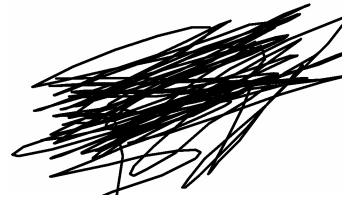
# Learning to combine visual symbols

## Scribbling phase

random and then controlled  
(age guide: 1-3 years)



random scribbling



controlled scribbling

### *Characteristics*

- Initially marks are random with lots of variation in their direction and length.
- As children become more practiced, they may consciously repeat a particular direction or movement in their scribble. Vertical, horizontal and circular movements predominate.
- There is often great enjoyment in the associated movement sensations of scribbling.
- Older children will begin to give their picture a name or say it is something. This usually happens after the picture is done and may change over time. However, it indicates an awareness of visual representation.

### *Strategies for the scribbling phase*

- Provide a range of media to work with, especially sensory activities. Suitable media include finger painting, shaving cream, sand, thick crayons, chalk and textas, as well as paintbrushes and easels.
- Use commenting to promote children's awareness of both associated feelings of movement and the visual appearance of the scribbling. Comments can relate to
  - ✓ the movement - 'round and round'
  - ✓ the visual effect - 'wow - big, long lines'
  - ✓ emotion/aesthetics - 'you liked making that drawing'
- Model new movements to make in scribbling. Singing rhymes such as "round and round" also help to encourage new movements.