# B4 Making Marks Workshop Format

This outline provides a guide to a workshop for early childhood educators, artists and community members interested in working with young children (birth to 4 years) to create visual artworks and stories for submission to the B4 collection ***‘Making Marks’***.

The Regional Workshops will include a light working lunch/nibbles and will be held on the following dates and locations:

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**WORKSHOP FORMAT**

**Introduction (10 mins):**

Welcome and viewing of Dr Barbara Piscitelli AM Video Clip ‘Celebrating young children’s creative explorations in mark-making – why, how?’

**Our goals for the B4 Exhibition – why, how? (10 mins):**

* Our proposal to curate and exhibit representations of young children’s mark-making’ and stories about how the child connected with materials, people (other children and/or adults), and place when the child explored their use of a particular media for a particular purpose (eg. to communicate, enjoy sensory exploration, to follow a line of curiosity - *see reference handout*).

**How educators, parents/carers and community members can participate in the B4 Children’s Mark-Making Exhibition (20 mins include Q&A)**

* Guidelines for materials - paper size, media options (note: the exhibition is necessarily limited to curating and displaying works on paper – regional displays may include other options where spaces permit)
* Setting the scene with young children - creating invitations for mark-making
* Gaining children’s permission to display their work
* Capture the story of the mark-making (the adult describes what happened and the connections that the child seemed to be making – children’s comments about their work are noted)
* Engaging the local community to participate by exhibiting works (travelling exhibition and/or works not selected in for the ECA Exhibition); and sharing the B4 story about the value of the arts in young children’s growth and wellbeing.

**Creating and Curating: Hands-on practice in producing an exhibition (90 mins – involves a working lunch/nibbles as the session progresses)**

* Educators, parents and community members have the opportunity to become ‘artists – mark-makers’ by working with an artist to create items for display. It is envisaged that the artist will draw on their own mark-making history and media preferences to share their skills. This is an experiential learning strategy. (60 mins)
* When the works are completed the workshop facilitators will reflect with the group on the artist’s use of communication and arts techniques that may be used with children. (15 mins)
* The artist will introduce and facilitate the curating process using the items created by group members (15 mins)
	+ Framing – sourcing “reusable” frames and mounts
	+ Labelling
	+ Creating text information panels
	+ Producing hanging systems
	+ Creating brochures
	+ Installing and de-installing the items

**Where to from here: Taking the next steps (15 mins)**

* Gathering the willing – signing up educators, parents, community members and artists in local settings, to go forth and create marks with children.