

# Secret Writing

Secret writing is a great activity for dark damp autumn afternoons and appeals to children of all ages.

## Equipment:

Paper  
Paint brushes or cotton buds  
Juice of half a lemon  
White wax crayons or white/clear candles  
Water colour paint  
Water  
Heat source, eg iron or oven

## Method 1:

1. Using the wax crayon or candle, write your secret message on a sheet of paper.
2. Next, mix up a colour wash - a thin mixture of paint and water.
3. To reveal the secret message, brush the colour wash over the sheet of paper. The paint will not stick to the wax, only to the clean paper.

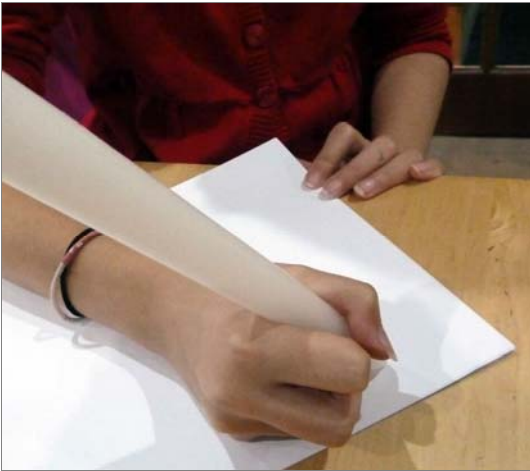
## Method 2:

1. Add a few drops of water to the lemon juice and mix it together. This dilutes the juice and allows it to dry clear.
2. Dip a paint brush or cotton bud in to the lemon juice mixture and write a message on white paper, then allow to dry.
3. To reveal the message, you need to heat the paper. You can do this by putting the paper in an oven at 170°C for a short time (watching it carefully all the time!).
4. Alternatively you can iron the paper on a medium heat.
5. If you don't have access to a heat source, you can also reveal the lemon juice writing using the colour wash method as described above.

**NB.** Don't use bottled lemon juice as the preservatives mean that it won't dry clear.

## Areas of learning and development:

PSED Personal, Social and Emotional Development  
EAD Expressive Arts and Design  
CL Communication and Language  
UW Understanding the World



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