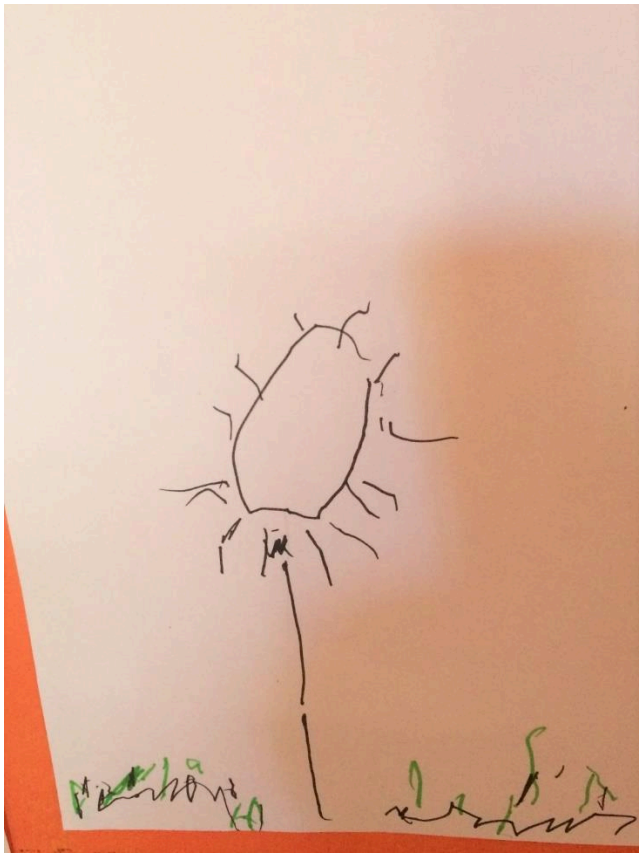
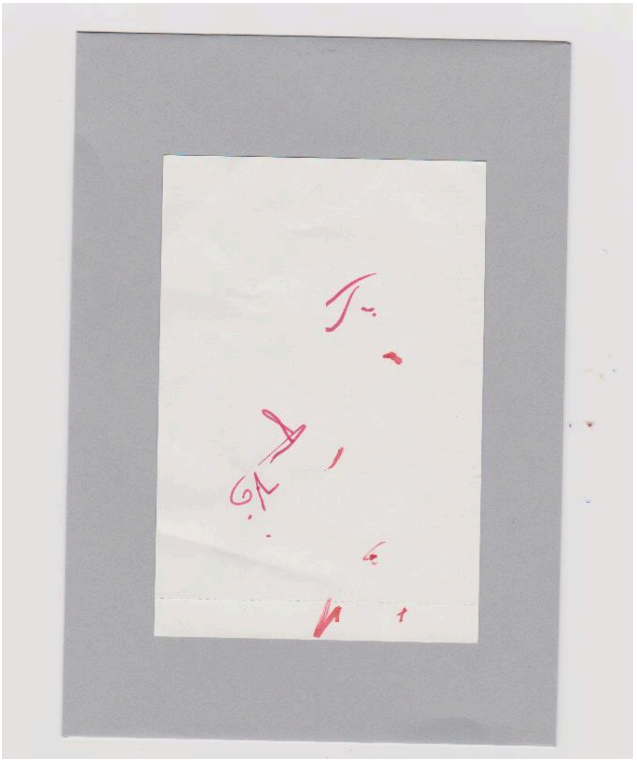
Sami's writing: Using the Jigsaw of Early Writing Development with parents to promote knowledge of child development.



Sami is 3 years old. He drew this picture independently using felt pens saying, *"It's a flower.....it's for nanny!"*
Sami likes mark making in many different materials and readily mark makes at the nursery he goes to. His early writing is just beginning to emerge in play situations. Sami enjoys playing outside and inside and is encouraged to mark make with paints, pens and pencils and with twigs, water, in mud and sand.

This is a page from Sami's 'policeman's notebook' where he was writing down a list of the 'baddies' he captured. (His relatives!) The three more complex marks on the right were the names of the 'baddies' and the firmer dots on the left were what they had done. Even at this very early stage of mark making, Sami is distinguishing different marks for different meanings!



Sami's "Nanny" filled in the jigsaw of early writing development and discussed what he could do with the practitioner (below).

She identified that he did know quite a bit about early writing:

- Sami knows when people are writing at home and asks people what they are writing. (This also extends to reading.)

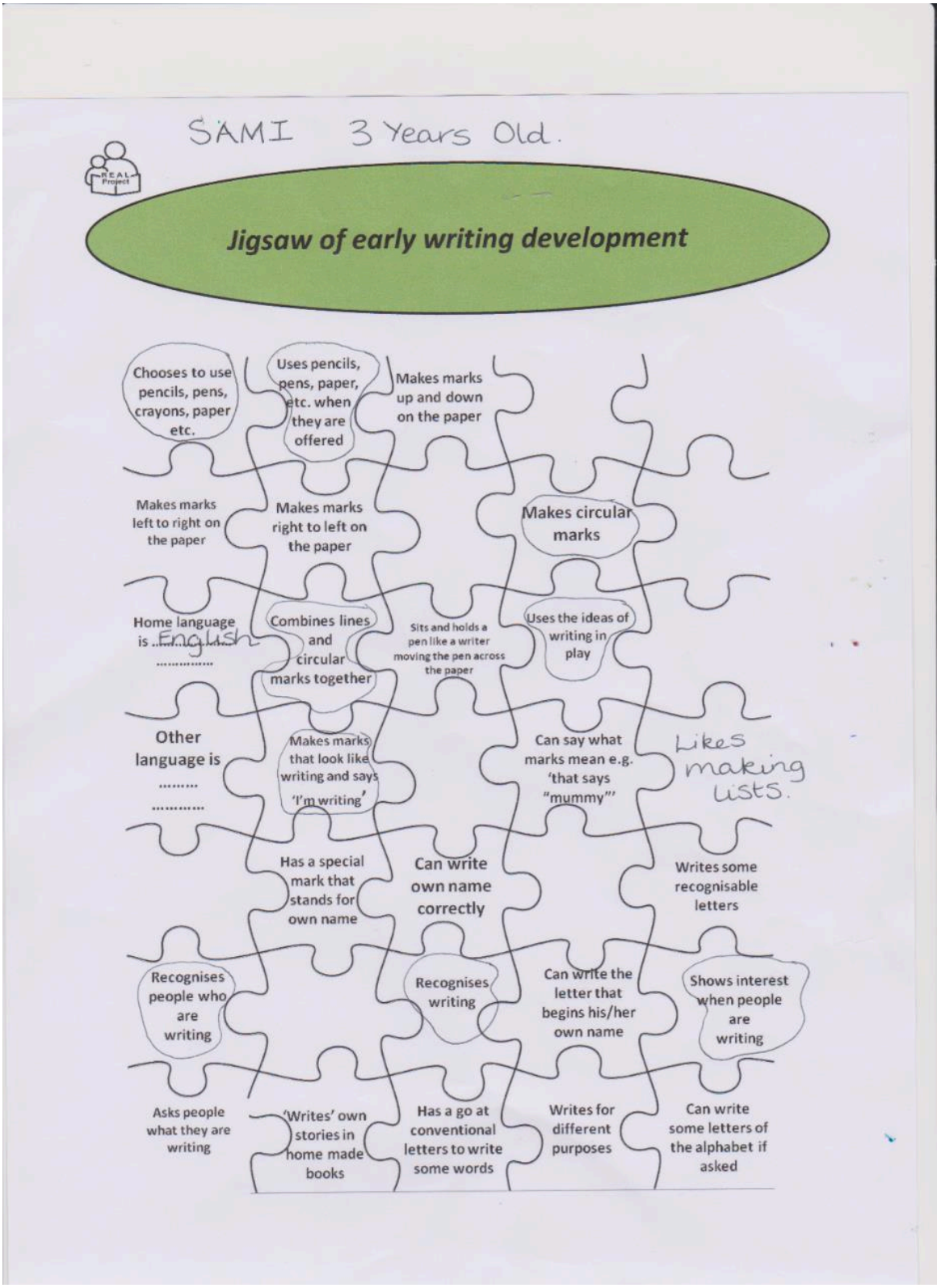
- Sami will ask what signs say in the street and in shops.

- Sami can recognise his name and pick it out of a list of names at Nursery although he hasn't started trying to write it yet.

- Sami enjoys writing and mark making for a purpose- making cards for people and especially making lists in the games he plays.

Sami's Nan found the jigsaw very useful – both to identify what he could do and to see where he could develop next. As a summer born boy, she felt it important to help with early writing and reading at home as he will start in a Reception class at 4 years 2 months old. She wants him to enjoy drawing and writing!

"This is really good", she said. "You don't know how much they can do until you see it like this!"



All four ORIM jigsaws (Environmental Print, Books, Early Writing Development and Language for Literacy) can be downloaded from the Sheffield REAL Project website.

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