

# pencil Grip

Just as with writing, the development of learning to hold a writing tool with the correct grip is a journey that children will take through several stages.

## 1) Fist grip



## 2) Palmer grip



## 3) Five finger pencil grip



## 4) Tripod grip



To help your child develop the hand-eye coordination and muscle strength in their shoulder, elbow, wrists and fingers needed to hold a writing tool you can:

- thread beads
- squish doh
- use pegs or tweezers
- thread nuts and bolts
- finger knit
- use small hammers and nails

It is best if the children complete these activities standing up to also help core strength.

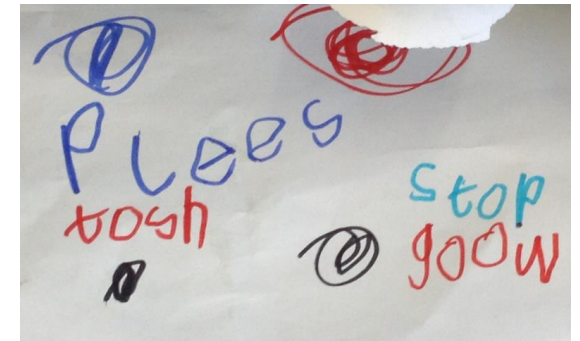
## For happy early mark making:

- be ready to join in the drawing and painting
- look out for washable paints and felt tip pens
- use chalks
- use water and paintbrushes outside
- show children how you write
- write notes and letters to your child

Try not to force children into writing as they will find it easier if they have had the opportunity to work on controlling their whole arm movements first. These larger movements are usually made by children naturally as they play outdoors by throwing, catching, climbing and as they run, jump, twist and twirl.

Mark making **must** be fun for children. Try putting out real pens and paper or taking out a bucket of water and a paintbrush for children to enjoy playing with. Remember that children need to see the adults around them writing.

# Making Their Mark



# Children's Early Writing



# Starting to write

Children begin their journey towards writing by making marks, not by producing letters and words.

The marks children make gradually begin to have more meaning to them, even if it looks like a scribble to an adult. You will be able to see this if you listen to what they say when they play with pens, paper, paint and crayons.

At first, mark-making is a blend of writing and drawing as children are keen to use their new skills.

Celebrate and join in with the marks that your child can make!

Before children are ready to write they will need to develop hand-eye coordination. Look out for every day opportunities such as putting on coats, pouring out drinks and cooking. As well as these everyday skills, children may enjoy games such as 'Kerplunk' and 'Pick up sticks' and completing jigsaws and building with lego bricks.

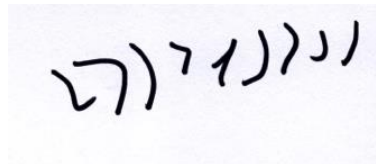
# Making Sense Of Marks



1) scribbles



2) Individual scribble units.



3) Individual stroke units.



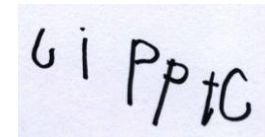
4) Personal manuscript (like letter forms)



5) Personal cursive



6) Conventional letters plus letter like forms. (reversals are expected)



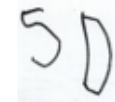
"Go slow."

7) Conventional letters (no phonic links)

Writes his/her name.  
Writes: I Love You.

8) Conventional letters in memorised or copied words.

silver  
dollar



9) Invented spellings or use of initial sounds. (links to phonics)

"rainbow"



10) Invented spelling, use of initial and final sounds.



"ship"

11) Invented spelling, most sounds represented.