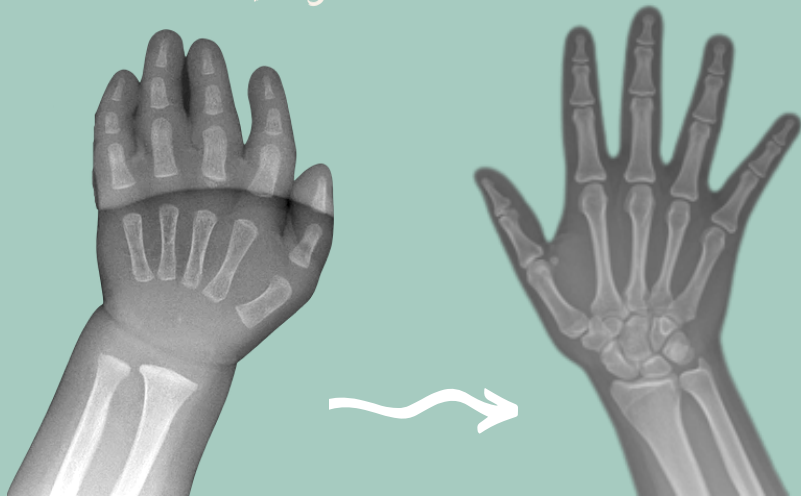


FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

Fine motor skills involve movement of the smaller muscle groups in your child's hands, fingers, and wrist.



Help your child's hands go from this as a baby

To school-ready hands like this

A little guide to:

FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

From birth - 12 months your baby may....

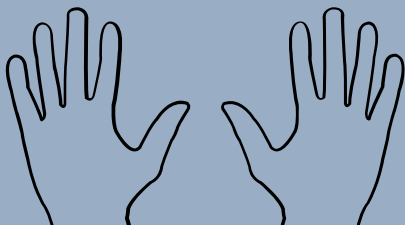
Watch and explore
objects with their hands

Reach for, touch and start
to hold objects

♡ Support your baby by....

Providing objects that
move/ or noisy when
touched

Providing objects that
can be held, pulled and
squeezed



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FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

From 1 -2 years old your child may....

Pick up small objects
between their thumb and
fingers

Enjoy marking making
during sensory play
experiences

Hold a crayon with a whole hand
grip and makes random marks

♡ Support your child by....

Providing objects that
move/ or noisy when
touched

Providing objects that
can be held, pulled and
squeezed

Show your child
how to make marks
in Play Dough e.g.
poking and patting



FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

From 2 - 2.5 years old your child may....

Begin to balance blocks
to build a tower

Begin to make
connections between the
movements and the
marks they make

Hold a crayon with a
digital grasp

♡ Support your child by....

Encouraging them to feed
themselves using their
hands, cutlery and a cup

Helping them find
comfortable ways to hold
items they wish to use e.g.
paint brushes

Inviting them to help
with everyday tasks
e.g. sweeping



Provide items for
emptying, filling and
carrying

FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

From 2.5 - 3 years old your child may....

Show greater control when using objects to pour, books and mark making tools

Imitates drawing simple shapes

Begins to use three fingers (a modified tripod grip) when mark making



Support your child by....

Encouraging them to do up buttons and manipulate objects



Provide 'tool boxes' containing things that make marks, so that children can explore their use both indoors and outdoors.

FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

From 3 - 4 years old your child may....

Uses one-handed tools and equipment, e.g. makes snips in paper with child scissors

Draw lines and circles

Holds pencil near point between first two fingers and thumb and uses it with good control.



Support your child by....

Provide activities that give children the opportunity and motivation to practise manipulative skills, e.g. cooking, painting, play dough.



Provide play resources including small world toys, construction sets, threading and posting toys, dolls' clothes and material for collage.

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FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

From 40 - 60+ months your child may....

Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials.

Shows a preference for a dominant hand.

Begins to use anticlockwise movement and retrace vertical lines.

Uses a pencil and holds it effectively to form recognisable letters

♥ Support your child by....

Provide a range of construction toys of different sizes, made of wood, rubber or plastic, that fix together in a variety of ways.

Support children with physical difficulties with non-slip mats, small trays for equipment, and thicker writing tools.

