

Sensational OT Tip of the Month

Grasp

Do you know children that ...

- 1. Have a difficult time holding a pencil, crayon or marker?**
- 2. Use all of their fingers on a writing tool?**
- 3. Complain their hand hurts when they color, draw, or write?**

These children might have fine motor weakness impacting their ability to grasp writing tools effectively when drawing, writing or coloring.

Sensational Ideas for Grasp

- 1. Use small pieces of crayons or chalk to promote the use of a tripod grasp (using only thumb, index, and middle fingers).**
- 2. Have the child hold a cotton ball or a piece of tissue paper in their pinky and ring fingers while the other fingers hold the writing utensil to promote correct grasp.**
- 3. Use pencil grips on writing utensils to help children know where to put their fingers. There are a variety of pencil grips available. Different pencil grips are indicated depending on what is causing the grasping difficulty, the child's hand size and comfort with a particular grip.**

*Ask the occupational therapist at your school if you are interested in more information about **grasp**.*

Go to <http://therapystreetforkids.com/fm-pincergrasp.html> or <http://therapystreetforkids.com/fm-strength.html> for more information.

For more tip sheets go to <http://www.cintiotinstitute.com/privateschools>.

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