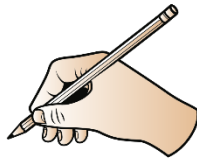


Developing Early Mark making skills



In order to develop carefully controlled marks to draw pictures and form letters, children require a significant amount of strength in their fingers and an accurate 'tripod' grip (as shown in the picture.)

Usually, carrying out pre-school activities suggested below are contributory in supporting this important skill.

- Manipulating play dough
- Placing small pegs on a peg board
- Using scissors
- Screwing and unscrewing lids
- Using clothes pegs or tweezers to pick up objects
- Threading beads
- Tearing/ scrunching paper
- Squeezing sponges
- Singing finger rhymes

We are working on these skills in school but if you notice your child has a weak grip, you might like to provide similar activities to support them at home.

If you notice your child holding mark making tools (such as pens, pencils, crayons) incorrectly, please change the grip to a tripod grip as shown. In school we use our 'baby shark' fingers to hold the pencil at the bottom, supported by the other fingers behind. Without correction, mark making skills could be delayed.

Many thanks for your support.