



Fine Motor Skills Tip Sheet

Ideas for an “Awkward Grip”

If your student is holding their pencil or crayon with an awkward grip by using their whole hand or with 4-5 fingers **and** it is hindering their ability to write at the same speed or with the same legibility as their peers you may try this...



- Lay the pencil/crayon in front of the student on their desk with the pointed end facing them. Have the student pick up the pen and hold it with point still facing them (typically students will pick up the pen between their thumb and first finger). Next, flip the end of the pencil/crayon to where it is facing them keeping the same grasp on the pencil crayon. This should position the student's fingers in the appropriate tripod grasp for writing.
- Have the student make an OK sign using the thumb and first finger of their dominant hand. Do this again, but ask the student place their pencil/crayon between their thumb and first finger before making the sign. Have them look through the ring their fingers are making to ensure that they are making a good arch with their fingers. Then have the student pull the rest of their fingers down to their palm. This should position the student's fingers in the appropriate tripod grasp for writing.

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Related items from **Motor Skills** **Teacher** **Observation Sheet**

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
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