



# Fine Motor Skills Tip Sheet

## Ideas for “Poor Handwriting”

If your student appears to be using his or her whole arm to move a pencil/ crayon while writing or coloring as opposed to their fingers/wrist you may try this...

- Provide the student with a slanted work surface using something like a 2” or larger 3 ring binder and attach the top of the student’s paper to the more elevated side using binder clips or tape. The elevated work surface may encourage more dynamic wrist/finger movements while writing or coloring by limiting the student’s ability to use their whole arm with ease.

If your student appears to become fatigued easily with writing assignments you may try this...



- Have the student work on mazes or other activities that encourage the student to sustain their grip for extended periods of time while not “writing”.
- Hide small objects (figurines, coins, game

### Sitting posture

The student should be seated with the feet firmly planted on the floor providing support while writing with the knees and hips as close to 90° as possible. The table surface should be 2 inches above the flexed elbows when seated in the chair.

### Paper position

The paper should be slanted on the desktop so that it is parallel to the forearm of the writing; this angle of the paper enables the student to see their written work and avoids smearing of writing. The non-dominant hand should rest on the paper for stabilization.

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

- Stuff from the checklist here....as much as we can fit that's important.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
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