

Fine Motor Skills



Eastfield
Infants and Nursery
Academy



WELLSPRING
WELLSPRING
WELLSPRING



Lacey
Gardens
Junior Academy

What are fine motor skills?

Fine motor skills involve the small muscles of the body. The coordination of these small muscles are required for small movements like cutting, writing, opening water bottles, tying shoes etc. Young children benefit from daily practice to help develop fine motor skills in their hands and fingers. Strengthening these skills are important because they directly impact how well a child can write as well as increases their stamina for writing.

Home Activities to Strengthen Fine Motor Skills

- Use a plant sprayer to spray water on plants or play “Monster melt” ... draw monster pictures with a marker and then spray them with water.



- Provide child safe tweezers or tongs and encourage children to pick up small marshmallows or pom-poms and place in empty ice cube trays or egg cartons for



- Provide spring loaded clothes pegs and encourage children to clip clothes or pictures on a line.



- Provide cheerios, Fruit loops or macaroni and encourage children to lace them on string, yarn or spaghetti.



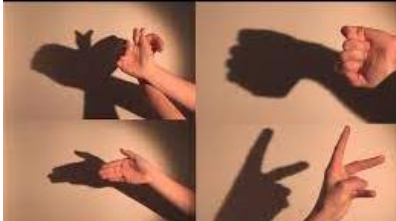
- Provide small tops to spin.



- Spread cards, coins, or buttons on the floor and encourage them to turn them over.



- Make shadow puppets on the wall.



- Play with finger puppets.



- Sing chants and finger plays that encourage the use of the fingers such as 5 Little Ducks and 5 Little Speckled Frogs etc.



- Provide small pieces of chalk or broken crayons for children to write or draw with.



- Provide old greeting cards for children to cut, the thick paper provides the resistance they need to be more successful. Cut any thick paper. Cut playdough with plastic scissors. Cut plastic, disposable straws or shredded paper.



- Spread sand, salt or flour in a shallow pan and encourage children to use their fingers to draw in it.



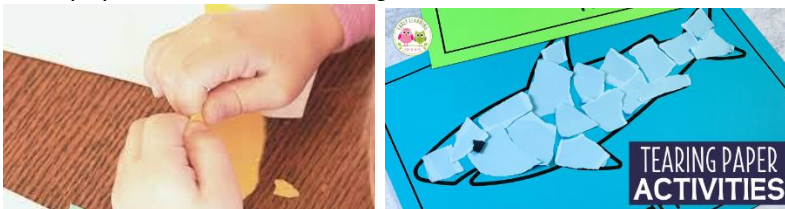
- Place hair gel and food colouring in a sandwich bag. Force all the air out of the bag and seal tightly with packing tape or duct tape. Place the bag on a flat surface and encourage children to use their index fingers to write on the bag.



- Play with playdough. Use a rolling pin to roll playdough. Roll 'snakes' with play dough using the palm of hands. Roll play dough into tiny balls using only the finger tips.



- Tear paper and make a collage.



- Write your child's name or draw a pattern on a piece of paper and have them decorate it with stickers, beans, or any small object they need to grasp with their thumb and their index finger.



- Crumple paper with fingertips into a ball. Make 5 large balls and 5 small ones.

