



12 - 18 months old, Cylindrical Grasp



Toddlers hold crayons in a clenched fist. Marks are made by large gestures, movement from the shoulder swinging the whole arm.

How you can help this development:

Large crayons either round or triangular in shape.
Oversized paper (toddlers have no boundaries when it comes to colouring).
Patience and lots of paper.

2 - 3 years old, Digital Grasp



Older toddlers hold crayons in a more controlled manner using their fingers to guide the crayon. They will begin to draw wavy lines and distinct marks that look like letters. They may write actual letters and begin to spell their own name.

How you can help this development:

A variety of writing mediums, crayons, markers, pencils and pens.
A variety of paper; lined, plain, and colourful.
Tablets and writing pads are very popular with preschoolers.

3.5 - 4 years old, Modified Tripod Grasp



Preschool aged children will begin to hold their crayon or pencils correctly. They will know the sounds that letters make and will attempt to write words based on how they sound.

How you can help this development:

A variety of writing mediums, crayons, markers, pencils and pens.
Lined paper, exercise books, binders with loose paper.
Help them practice the formation of letters.



4.5 - 7 years old, Tripod Grasp



School aged children can usually hold their pencil correctly. They know the sounds letters make and spell words based on how they sound. They are able to recognize and write sight words as well as their name.

How you can help this development:

Have a white board on a wall at your child's level.
Have your child help with shopping lists or messages.
Have child copy text from books or turn practice into play and make up a game called, "Write What I Write".
Encourage creative writing and journaling.