

Birth to 2years

Pass things from one hand to the other. Let go of things and hand them to another person, or drop them.

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| 2-year-olds | Au. 1 | Build independently with a range of appropriate resources. |
| | Au. 2 | Use small motor skills to do things independently, for example pincer grip to pick up and place small objects, and pour/empty into containers. |
| | Sp. 1 | Show an increasing desire to be independent, such as wanting to feed themselves and dress or undress. |
| | Sp. 2 | Start eating independently and learning how to use a knife and fork. Develop manipulation and control. Explore different materials and tools. |
| | Su. 1 | Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils. |
| | Su. 2 | Begin to show a preference for a dominant hand. |

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| 3-year-olds | Au. 1 | Shows can use a one-handed tool. Begin Dough Disco |
| | Au. 2 | Makes snips in paper using scissors. Begin Squiggle Wiggle |
| | Sp. 1 | Child shows a preference for a dominant hand. |
| | Sp. 2 | Begin to hold a pencil with a modified tripod grip to show control. Begin name writing if ready |
| | Su. 1 | Demonstrate a growing independence putting on a coat and shoes, begin to do zips. |
| | Su. 2 | Begin to use a knife and fork. |

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| 4-year-olds | Au. 1 | Children using pencils and other equipment comfortably for them. Children making snips in paper either using one hand or two. |
| | Au. 2 | Children continuing to develop their fine motor skills. Children beginning to learn correct letter formations and use these in their writing. |
| | Sp. 1 | Developing an effective pencil grip. Developing skill when using tools including scissors. |
| | Sp. 2 | Children forming recognisable letters with an effective pencil grip. |
| | Su. 1 | Confidently using scissors and small tools. Beginning to use a tripod grip to draw and write accurately. |
| | Su. 2 | Children using the tripod grip. Using a range of small tools. Showing accuracy when drawing. |

| Early Learning Goal | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery. Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing. |