



## Developing Small Motor Skills and an Efficient Pencil Grip Are Important Parts of Learning How to Write—and Enjoying the Process!

(This drawing shows typical progression of preschool development of pencil grasp. We were not able to locate its source.)

Dear Parents,

**Good handwriting matters, beginning with a good pencil grasp!** *If handwriting motions are not efficient, it interferes with the whole writing process.*

As your child develops a better pencil grasp, **the writing process becomes easier.** It is normal for children to enter kindergarten with a wide range of fine-motor development. **Some children start the year with an efficient pencil grasp,** and others are developing one. This is because children's finger muscles develop with time and experience.

**We are asking you to support your child in learning an efficient pencil grasp:**

- Teach your child how to hold crayons, draw, and color within lines.
- Then, provide many opportunities to fingerspell, use scissors, tweezers, pencils, pens, and small building toys.
- We want learning this important skill to be a positive experience!

**Why is a good pencil grip so important?** *So we can write better and faster and so our finger muscles won't get tired.*

Parents as Partners allows us to give your child the life-long habit of efficient handwriting!

With appreciation,