

## Fine Motor Development Chart

**Fine motor skills** are finger and hand skills such as writing, cutting, opening lunch boxes, and tying shoelaces. The development of these skills relies upon the age appropriate development of physical skills (such as core trunk control and shoulder strength) providing the stable base from which the arm and hand can then move with control.

3-4 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Builds tower of nine small blocks</li> <li>• Copies circle</li> <li>• Imitates cross</li> <li>• Manipulates clay material (rolls balls, makes snakes, cookies)</li> <li>• Uses non-dominant hand to assist and stabilize the use of objects</li> <li>• Snips paper using scissors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delayed pre-writing skill development</li> <li>• Frustration and/or avoidance of pencil based tasks</li> <li>• Poor pencil grasp and pencil control</li> <li>• Poor self-care skills (such as eating)</li> <li>• Delayed drawing skills</li> </ul>
4-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts on line continuously</li> <li>• Copies cross</li> <li>• Copies square</li> <li>• Writes name</li> <li>• Writes numbers 1-5</li> <li>• Copies letters</li> <li>• Handedness is well established</li> <li>• Dresses and undresses independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties holding and manipulating a pencil</li> <li>• Difficulties learning to write name and other letters of the alphabet</li> <li>• Dependence on caregivers for every day activities such as dressing</li> <li>• Frustration and/or avoidance of pencil based tasks</li> </ul>
5-6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts out simple shapes</li> <li>• Copies triangle</li> <li>• Colors within lines</li> <li>• Uses a 3 fingered grasp of pencil and uses fingers to generate movement</li> <li>• Pastes and glues appropriately</li> <li>• Can draw basic pictures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties learning to form letters and numbers correctly</li> <li>• Poor handwriting</li> <li>• Difficulties demonstrating academic ability on paper</li> <li>• Fatigue during pencil based tasks</li> <li>• Frustration and/or avoidance of pencil based tasks</li> </ul>

This chart was designed to serve as a functional *screening* of developmental skills per age group. It does *not* constitute an assessment nor reflect strictly standardized research.