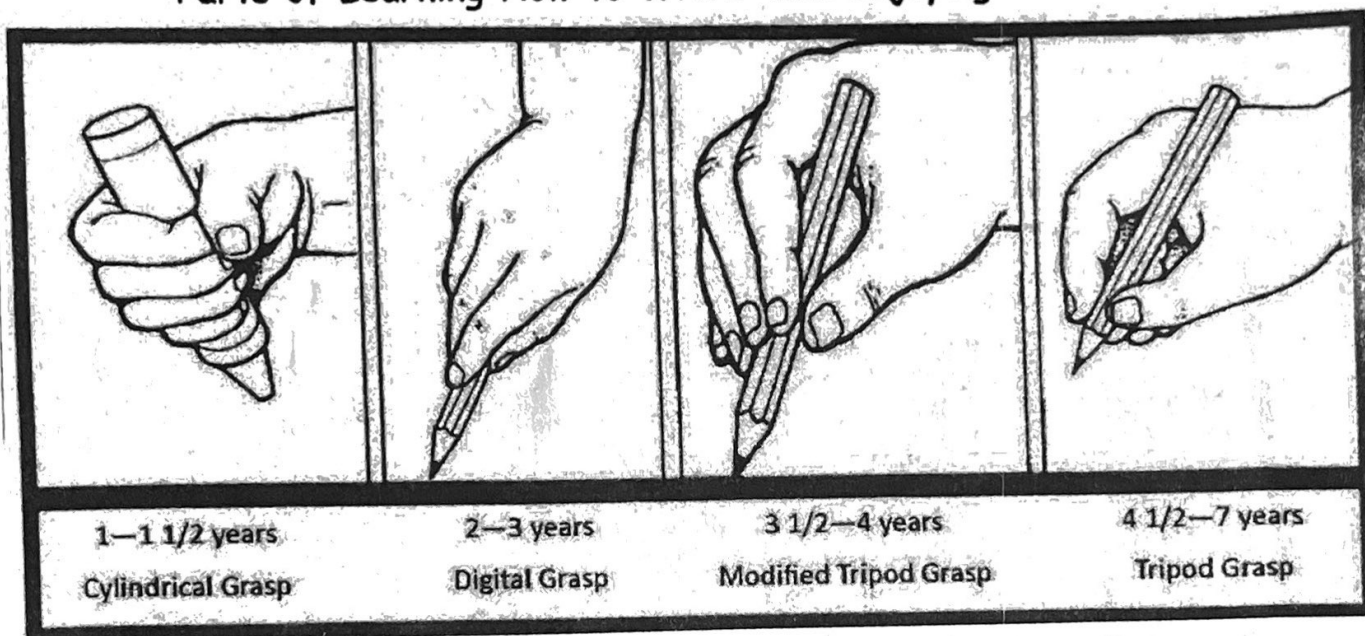


Developing Small Motor Skills and an Efficient Pencil Grip Are Important Parts of Learning How to Write—and Enjoying the Process!



(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.*

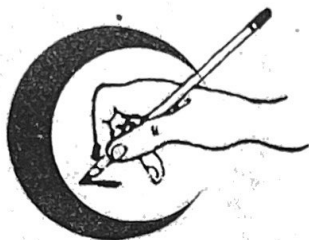
Parents as Partners allows us to give your child the life-long habit of efficient handwriting!

With appreciation,

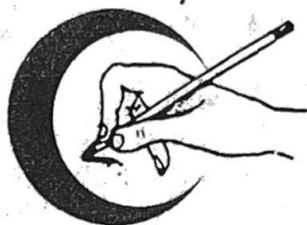
A Nellie Edge "Parents as Partners" letter 2016. Permission to use or adapt and make multiple copies with credits note

Chart of **CORRECT** and **INCORRECT** Handwriting Positions

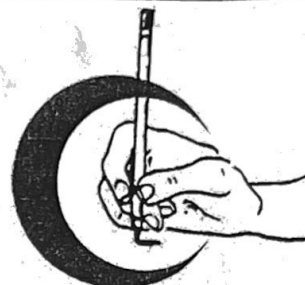
Correct



1. The pencil rests on the first joint of the middle finger with the thumb and index fingers holding the pencil in place.

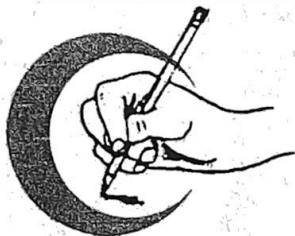


2. Same as Figure 1, except the fingers are closer to the pencil point.



3. Same as Figure 1, except the pencil is held perpendicular to the table.

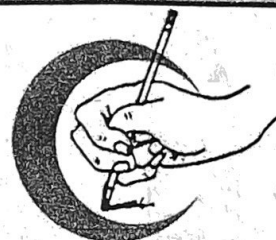
Incorrect



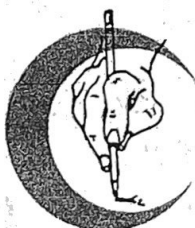
4. Thumb and index finger holding pencil, with index finger overlapping the thumb.



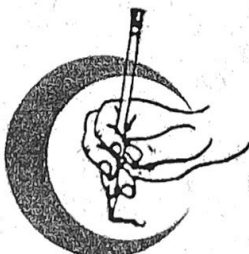
5. Pencil held by tips of fingers, thumb on one side, middle and index fingers on the other.



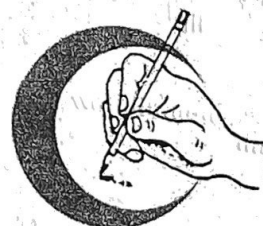
6. Thumb wraps around pencil with index and middle fingers pressing pencil to ring finger.



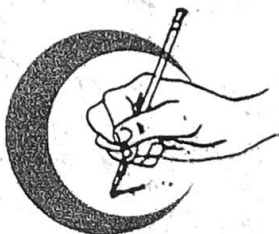
7. Pencil is held between the index and middle fingers, pressing pencil to the thumb.



8. Index, middle and ring finger tips hold one side of the pencil, the thumb holds the other.



9. Thumb on one side, index and middle fingers on the other, all pressing the pencil to ring finger.



10. Index finger holds pencil to middle finger with the thumb overlapping the index finger.



11. The thumb holds the pencil along the first joints of the rest of the fingers.



12. The pencil is grasped in the first and held up against the thumb.

