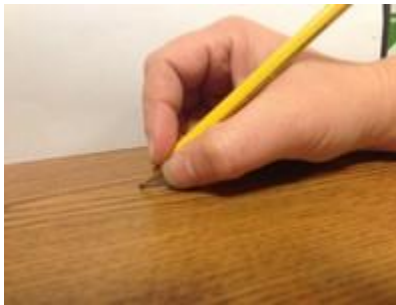


**Taunton Public Schools - Department of Special Education
Occupational Therapy**

HANDWRITING

To succeed at handwriting children must start with the correct pencil grasp. Good Posture: Feet should be on the floor and the desk surface should be on comfortable height for the arm and elbow to rest.

Proper "Tripod" Pencil Grasp: The pencil should be held between the pads of the thumb and the index finger while resting on the middle finger.



REMEMBER: It takes most children longer to learn a skill than we think. They need time practice and the adults help and patience!

Start with handwriting warm-up exercises:

- open/close fist
- turn hands palm up/down simultaneously and quickly
- touch thumb to all fingers snap.

Remember to practice some of the fine motor activities daily use sidewalk chalk, chubby crayons, 2 inch pencils or broken crayons to help children learn more control.

Some Activities include (also see Fine Motor Skills Page)

- Creative drawing "there is no wrong way"
- Dot-to-dots and Mazes
- Practice shapes/basic strokes etc in the air and in various textures (ie. Sand, shaving cream, salt, gel)
- Trace letters
- Write letters in the air
- Flashing light letters
- Writing/identifying letters written on child's back