FINE MOTOR SKILLS
2 YEARS TO 3 YEARS

Give the child time to think and respond
Remember to reward with praise
2 - 2.6 Years

At 2 years old children are starting to show a hand preference, they are able to hold a pencil using thumb and two fingers and will spontaneously make circular scribble.

They are showing increased manipulative skill enabling them to pick up tiny objects accurately and place down with more precise action.

Beginning to open and close scissors and thread large beads on to a thick lace. Can now build towers of 6/7 or more blocks.

Children are now able to lift and drink from an open cup, and feed self competently with a spoon.

Suggestions to develop fine motor skills

Inset puzzles

Play Dough — add glitter, pasta and objects of interest

Water play — bottles / jars with lid, squeeze / twist flannels and sponge

Threading — thick plastic tube, rope washing line, pipe cleaner

Beads — Large hole beads, curtain rings, bangles

Finger Puppets - Old Macdonald’s farm, 10 green bottle, 5 fat sausages in a pan, 5 little ducks

Fuzzy Felts

Piano / Key board

Bubble wrap

Simple interlocking puzzles

Scissors – paper, wool, plastic scissor to cut play dough

Large Peg boards

Duplo

Mr Potato Head

Bricks — different sizes

Posting / slotting games

Mark Making — chalk, finger paint, white board, sand, glitter, flour, shaving foam, crayons, paint brush with water, Aqua mat and pen, etch-a-sketch, felt pens, paint dabbers

Early role play — tea party, home corner, feeding dolls etc....

All activities are to be carried out with adult supervision only
2.6 – 3 Years

By two and a half, children will use preferred hand to imitate lines, circles, and a cross with an improved tripod grasp.

Now able to build 9 plus blocks, place simple shapes into an inset board and join two piece interlocking puzzle, can turn a key to open a posting box and snip paper with scissors.

Is now eating skilfully with a spoon and will begin to use a fork.

Suggestions to develop fine motor skills

Inset puzzles

Play Dough — add glitter, pasta and objects of interest

Water play — bottles / jar with lid, squeeze / twist flannels, sponge, plastic bottles

Interlocking puzzles

Scissors –adapted scissors easy grip, long loop available in left or right. Duel control training, double loop, self opening to support children with weaker hands

Peg boards

Fuzzy Felts

Beads — small hole beads, buttons, cotton reels

Mr Potato Head

Finger Puppets— Old Macdonald’s farm, 10 green bottles, 5 fat sausages in a pan, 5 little ducks

Interconnecting construction— popoids, interlocking stars, nuts and bolts, cogs and wheels, link chains

Bricks — different sizes

Piano / Key board

Posting / slotting games

Mark Making — chalk, finger paint, white board, sand, glitter, flour, shaving foam, crayons, paint brush with water, Aqua mat and pen, etch-a-sketch, felt pens, paint dabbers

Wind up toys

Early role play — tea party, home corner, feeding dolls etc....

All activities are to be carried out with adult supervision only