

Education Taking Part in Class Work Writing and Drawing

Holding a Pencil

As soon as your child stops putting things in their mouth give them little pieces of chalk or crayon and big sheets of paper to scribble on. It is important to encourage a good pencil grip from the start so make sure your child is able to identify and name their thumb, pointer finger and middle finger (see below for Tommy Thumb Song) so they can start to use them together.



Activity Ideas

- Sing the Tommy Thumb song (see below for lyrics).
- Use a variety of different mark makers (e.g. thick felt pens, chunky crayons, chunky chalk etc) and encourage your child to colour in pictures.



- Finger paint with your child and encourage them to use a different colour for each finger (thumb, pointer and middle fingers only).
- Pick up marbles using the thumb, pointer and middle fingers only.
- For any of the above ideas it can be helpful to encourage your child to hold a small cotton wool ball (or another small object) in the palm of their hand using their ruby ring (ring finger) and baby small (pinkie finger) as this will ensure these fingers do not become part of pencil grasp.



Tommy Thumb, Tommy Thumb

Where are you?
Here I am, here I am
How do you do.



Peter Pointer, Peter Pointer

Where are you?
Here I am, here I am
How do you do.

Toby Tall, Toby Tall

Where are you?
Here I am, here I am
How do you do.

Ruby Ring, Ruby Ring

Where are you?
Here I am, here I am
How do you do.

Baby Small, Baby Small

Where are you?
Here I am, here I am
How do you do.



Tommy Thumb Song