

DEVELOPMENTAL GRASP PATTERNS

Children progress through different grasp patterns as they gain more muscle control and strength in the muscles of the hand. The following illustrations show general developmental patterns a child may exhibit and the complexity with which they should progress. Interchangeable hand use is acceptable for children up until age 5 —6, yet the child should be showing a definite preference for one hand for many activities. Remember that children are not consistent and may change grasp patterns frequently or adapt them according to activity. The child should be allowed to experiment with the different patterns but teachers can encourage and facilitate progression to developmentally more complex grasps.

