Vancouver Coastal Health
Paediatric Teams

Fine Motor Development Chart

Age	Developmental Milestones	Possible Implications if Milestone Not Achieved
0-6 months	• Reflexive grasp (at birth) • Global ineffective reach for objects (3 months) • Voluntary grasp (3 months) • 2 handed palmar grasp (3 months) • 1 handed palmar grasp (5 months) • Controlled reach (6 months)	• Poor muscle development and control • Delayed ability to play independently • Delayed sensory development due to delayed interaction with toys and other sensory objects
6-12 months	• Reaches, grasps, puts object in mouth • Controlled release of objects • Static Pincer grasp (thumb and one finger) • Picks things up with pincer grasp (thumb and one finger) • Transfers objects from one hand to another • Drops and picks up toys	• Poor development of hand and finger strength • Poor manipulation of objects resulting in delayed play skills • Delayed sensory development due to lack of sensory play experiences
1-2 years	• Builds tower of three small blocks • Puts four rings on stick • Places five pegs in pegboard • Turns pages two or three of a book at a time • Scribbles • Turns knobs • Paints with whole arm movement, shifts hands, makes strokes • Self-feeds with minimal assistance • Able to use signing to communicate • Brings spoon to mouth • Holds and drinks from cup independently	• Poor development of hand and finger strength • Delayed independent play skills • Delayed development of self-care skills (such as eating) • Delayed manipulation skills
2-3 years	• Strings four large beads • Turns single pages of a book • Snips with scissors • Holds crayon with thumb and fingers (not fist) • Uses one hand consistently in most activities • Imitates circular, vertical, and horizontal strokes • Paints with some wrist action, makes dots, lines, circular strokes • Rolls, pounds, squeezes, and pulls playdough • Eats without assistance	• Delayed self-care skills (such as eating) • Delayed pre-writing skill development • Delayed manipulation of small objects such as toys, pencils and scissors • Frustration when manipulating small toys and objects

Information from Kide Sense: https://childdevelopment.com.au/resources/child-development-charts/fine-motor-developmental-chart/

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Age	Developmental Milestones	Possible Implications if Milestone Not Achieved
3-4 years	• Builds tower of nine small blocks • Copies circle • Imitates cross • Manipulates clay material (rolls balls, makes snakes, cookies) • Uses non-dominant hand to assist and stabilise the use of objects • Snips paper using scissors	• Delayed pre-writing skill development • Frustration and/or avoidance of pencil based tasks • Poor pencil grasp and pencil control • Poor self-care skills (such as eating) • Delayed drawing skills
4-5 years	• Cuts on line continuously • Copies cross • Copies square • Writes name • Writes numbers 1-5 • Copies letters • Handedness is well established • Dresses and undresses independently	• Difficulties holding and manipulating a pencil • Difficulties learning to write name and other letters of the alphabet • Dependence on caregivers for every day activities such as dressing • Frustration and/or avoidance of pencil based tasks
5-6 years	• Cuts out simple shapes • Copies triangle • Colours within lines • Uses a 3 fingered grasp of pencil and uses fingers to generate movement • Pastes and glues appropriately • Can draw basic pictures	• Difficulties learning to form letters and numbers correctly • Poor handwriting • Difficulties demonstrating academic ability on paper • Fatigue during pencil based tasks • Frustration and/or avoidance of pencil based tasks
6-7 years	• Forms most letters and numbers correctly • Writes consistently on the lines • Demonstrates controlled pencil movement • Good endurance for writing • Can build Lego, K'nex and other blocks independently • Ties shoelaces independently	• Difficulties getting ideas down on paper • Experiences fatigue during handwriting tasks • Difficulty keeping up in class due to slow handwriting speed • Poor legibility of handwriting • May impact on self-esteem when comparing work to peers • Possible frustration and/or behavior difficulties due to avoidance of pencil based tasks
7-8 years	• Maintains legibility of handwriting for entirety of a story	• Difficulty completing handwriting tasks in a timely manner • Experiencing fatigue during handwriting tasks • Poor academic achievement due to difficulty getting ideas down on paper • Difficulties due to avoidance of pencil based tasks

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