

Common Problems with Writing Grasp

You might see:	You might try:
Difficulty achieving tripod grasp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrate and teach how to grasp pencil correctly ▪ Practice different ways of picking up and positioning the pencil correctly ▪ Use visual and auditory cues to help remember correct thumb and finger placement ▪ Activities to Develop Pencil Grasp Handout ▪ Try pencil grips
Closed web space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Try suggestions from: Difficulty achieving tripod grasp ▪ Thick round pencil shafts ▪ Use small pieces of crayons and chalk ▪ Use ball shaped writing tools – use Styrofoam balls has a holder ▪ Thumb strengthening ▪ Try a pencil grip
Thumb wrapped over index finger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Try suggestions from: Difficulty achieving tripod grasp ▪ use thicker writing tool ▪ use small pieces of chalk or crayon ▪ use a visual cue for thumb placement – sticker ▪ try a pencil grip
All fingers on the pencil shaft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Try suggestions from: Difficulty achieving tripod grasp ▪ use small pieces of crayons and chalk ▪ hold small item between the palm of the hand and ring & pinky finger, while using the thumb and remaining fingers to grasp a writing tool
Weak or loose grasp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ thicker writing tool ▪ use a sticker – have the student squeeze the sticker while grasping the writing tool ▪ change the texture of the writing tool ▪ use easy flow markers ▪ Hand Strengthening Activities Handout
Tight grasp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ check stability in posture ▪ thicker writing tool ▪ shorter writing tool ▪ increase sensory feedback of pencil – e.g. elastic band, Velcro, sandpaper ▪ alternative grasp ▪ relaxation activities
Held too close or too far from the tip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ place rubber band or sticker in correct position
Hooks wrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ write on a vertical surface ▪ check slant of paper ▪ use a slant board or 2 – 3” binder as a slant board
Little or no movement of small hand and finger muscles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ place a sticker on the pinky finger side of the wrist and encourage the child to keep the sticker touching the paper ▪ encourage the child to keep his/her hand stationary while doodling or colouring, using just the movements of the fingers ▪ when writing a sentence, encourage the child to print at least one whole word before sliding his/her hand across the paper
Pencil shaft vertical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ use small pieces of crayons and chalk ▪ use an elastic band – loop around the wrist and eraser end of the pencil