

Below are practice ideas to help your child prepare for grade two. Your child should be developing improved control and accuracy using a pencil. Encourage detailed drawings and smaller, more organized printing as they complete the below activities.

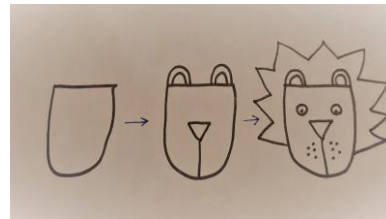
Pencil grasp:

- Pinch the pencil with thumb, index and middle finger.
- Pencil should rest in the web space at the base of the thumb.
- Movement to control the pencil should start to come from the fingers rather than the whole hand.







Drawing:

- Draw more complex shapes and pictures, including diagonals.
- Step-by-step drawing helps develop drawing skills. Use images with more details.



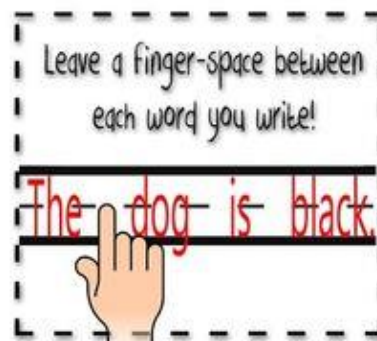
Cutting:

- Cut complex shapes (stars or other figures) that have several direction changes.
- Keep elbows "glued to sides" and thumbs up on the scissors and the paper.
- **Right-handed**  children should cut in a **counter-clockwise** direction. 
- **Left-handed**  children should cut in a **clockwise** direction. 



Printing:

- Practice printing inside a box or printing lines. Printing size should be getting smaller.
- Print letters that are tall, small and hang below the bottom line and use a finger space between words.
- Print full sentences using upper and lowercase letters.



Workbook Suggestions for printing practice:

1. Learning Without Tears (www.lwtears.com): workbooks available for purchase in both English and French.
2. Printing Like a Pro!: printing practice sheets can be downloaded for free in both English and French (<http://www.childdevelopment.ca/SchoolAgeTherapy/SchoolAgeTherapyClassResources.aspx>).