



FINE MOTOR TYPICAL DEVELOPMENT

3945 Matchette Rd.
Windsor, Ontario N9C 4C2
T: 519.252.7281
Toll Free: 1.866.636.6666
F: 519.252.5873
www.jmccentre.ca

This handout provides an overview of some typical fine motor skills that develop between ages 3 and 6.

3 YEARS

- Strings several 1" to ½" beads
- Turns doorknob
- Removes loose threaded cap (ie. water bottle lid, small jar)
- Solves 6-8 piece form board puzzle
- Imitates stroke across → down ↓ and circular scribble with crayon
- Uses paintbrush or crayon to cover large paper with random colour
- Places scissors correctly on fingers, holds paper and snips
- Scoops, pours and fills during sand and water play
- Builds a 6-8 piece block tower
- Nests 3 objects by size (rings, cups)
- Grasps marker with thumb and first finger pointing towards paper (digital pronote grasp)
- Builds interlocking construction toys
- Fold paper, if shown how

4 YEARS

- Holds a pencil in fingers
- Draws with the arm (not small hand movements yet)
- Draws vertical, horizontal, cross and circle
- Cuts across paper with blunt scissors
- Builds a tower of 7-9 blocks
- Puts together a simple puzzle of 4-12 pieces
- Copies some letters and shapes (crosses, squares)
- Cuts on a line
- Draws a person with three parts

5 YEARS

- Copies squares, some capital letters
- Draws a person with two to four body parts
- colours with more accuracy
- Hand preference is usually developing
- Colours within lines
- Cuts and pastes simple shapes
- Prints some letters
- Snaps fingers
- Accurately folds paper in half
- Crumples paper with one hand
- Moves small items from fingertips to palm
- Touches thumb to each fingertip

- Copies more complex block designs
- Mature dynamic tripod pencil grasp develops

6 YEARS

- Colours with accuracy
- Prints name and other letters
- Prints numbers
- Draws triangles, diagonal lines
- Hand dominance established
- Draws recognizable pictures
- Draws a person with six body parts
- Cuts out simple shapes
- Uses mature pencil grasp
- Moves small items from finger to palm
- Accurately folds paper in quarters