



FINE MOTOR



PREREQUISITES FOR PRINTING

The following ideas are meant to be a list of possible suggestions. Select activities that are at the child's present developmental level. Please contact the child's occupational therapist if you have any questions or concerns.

When are students ready to print? How quickly do they learn?

- Children may not be developmentally ready to print until the latter half of kindergarten.
- The quality of printing develops quickly in grade one.
- By grade 3 or 4, printing becomes more automatic and fluent.
- If printing skills are attempted to be taught before a child is developmentally ready, this can result in frustration and the development of bad habits.

What positioning requirements are needed for printing?

- Children need to be able to sit independently with their arms free in order to be able to control the crayon or pencil.
- If a child cannot maintain a stable, upright sitting posture, then the shoulder, hand and eyes will be unable to function together for printing.
- **The height of the chair and writing surface can affect a student's efficiency and attention. Feet need to be supported with hips and knees at 90°. This may require a lower chair or foot stool.**
- **The height of the desk top should be 2 inches above the height of the elbow when sitting.**

