

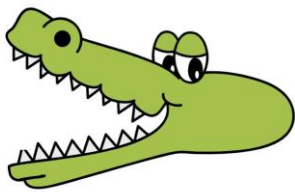
Fine Motor Activities

Turn your fingers into funky fingers!

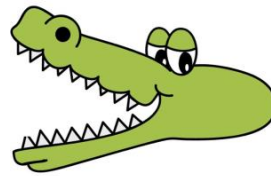
Whilst at home with your little ones, try having a go at some of the following 'Funky Finger' activities. The children love completing these in school. As you will see, lots of fun can be had with everyday household materials.

These activities are how we ensure that our children's fingers have the strength and dexterity needed for lots of super writing - and that all-important crocodile grip...snap...snap...snap.

Remember to model crocodile fingers with your child.



SNAP



SNAP

This will help them to hold their pencil correctly.

Here are some of our favourites:



Draw lines and spirals onto a piece of paper then use anything you can find; dried beans, marbles, small Lego pieces etc. to arrange carefully onto the line using a pincer (crocodile) grip.



Hair bobbles or elastic bands and a cup. Model to your little ones how to safely stretch the bobble and place it over the cup. Have a competition and see who can add the most in the space of 2 minutes. Ready. Steady. Go....



This one is tricky and needs a gentle touch combined with persistence and resilience – I know our little ones can do this!

Fill a container with water, add a lemon and see if they can balance a penny on top of the lemon without it falling off!

Take this opportunity to reinforce and model some prepositional language:

“Look you put it **on top** of the lemon!”

“Oh no it has fallen off. It has gone **under** the lemon.”



For this activity you will need a colander and pipe cleaners/ earbuds/ straws (or anything similar that you have around the house).

Model how to use pincer grip (crocodile fingers) to thread the pipe cleaners into the holes. Count them with 1:1 correspondence and make up songs as you go.

You can sing most things to the tune of: Let's All Do the Conga or Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.

"This is the way we thread the straws, thread the straws thread the straws."

This is the way we thread the straws, when we are at home."

or

Let's all push the straws in, let's all push the straws in la la la la hey!"

Singing songs sustains focus and engagement.

Using any pegs you can find, and small pieces of paper, with numbers 1-10 written on, work together with your child to match numerals and quantities.

Most of our children can now count with 1:1 correspondence. However, they cannot consistently hold onto that final amount (known as the cardinal principal). Therefore, once they have counted 1,2,3, pegs for example, see if they can tell you how many pegs they have without having to recount. "I counted 3." or "I put 3 on."

Challenge them further by asking questions such as: "If I put 1 more peg on how many would there be?"

or

"That is the number 5, I've put 3 on for you, but how many more do I need?"





Cheerio's, a dried spaghetti piece/thin stick and playdough can be used to complete this task.

Simply stick one thin piece of dried spaghetti into some playdough and carefully add Cheerio's without snapping the spaghetti.

This is also a great one for having races!



This is a great one if you have a bathmat. Just turn it upside down and balance marbles, small pebbles, Cheerio's (again) or drain a tin of peas and use those.

If your child continues to find holding a pencil tricky, use something soft (we often use triangular white make up sponges and call them crocodile teeth) and place it under the smallest two fingers. A piece of small paper, blue tac and playdough also works just as well to maintain a secure grip:

Try using a crocodile tooth under your child's last two fingers.



SNAP! SNAP!