
WRITING UTENSILS

Eyas Landing & Blue Bird Day

What are they?

Different writing utensils can be used to support a child's grasp for handwriting. Shorter and thicker writing utensils, like large crayons, are easier to grasp. With practice, children become better at writing and can start to use markers and pencils. There are different pieces of equipment that can be used to modify writing utensils to meet your child's needs.

They include:

- Adding a grip
- Changing the length of the utensil
- Adding weight
- Using vibration
- Providing hand support

Why use them?

Handwriting is a difficult task for many children. It involves:

- Small finger movements
- Torso and shoulder stability
- Visual perceptual skills
- Visual motor skills
- Hand strength and endurance
- Grasping

That is a lot of different things a child has to be able to do at the same time. Adapted writing utensils can target whichever challenging area to help the child learn to write. Writing is important as it supports literacy, brain development, memory, and written expression. However, it is important to remember that many children can use technology to foster written expression and literacy if writing is not appropriate.

Who can use them?

A child who struggles with handwriting may benefit from adapted writing utensils. It may be as simple as using a shorter and thicker writing utensil like a thick crayon to support a grasp and then

Price

\$3-\$35

Resources

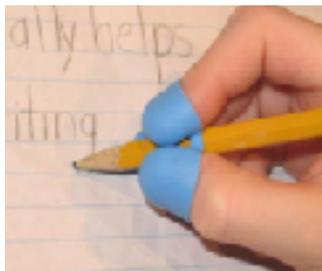
Autism Speaks: Advice on helping grade schooler with autism hold a pencil and write
<https://www.autismspeaks.org/blog/2016/01/22/advice-helping-grade-schooler-autism-hold-pencil-and-write>

The Wright Stuff: Different Adapted Utensil Options
<http://www.thewrightstuff.com/5-adapted-back-to-school-writing-accessories/>

progress to pencils. If you notice your child having difficulty writing and have ruled out any vision problems, talk to your therapist about different options for writing utensils.

Types of writing utensils

- Grips: There are many grips used to encourage a tripod grasp (using thumb, index, and middle finger to hold a pencil). Many are sold in the school departments of stores like Target or Office Depot. They are cheap and easily added to pencils.



- Weights: Adding weight to a pencil or buying a specific weighted pencil can help a child who has difficulty holding their hand still to write. Even though it may not seem like it, weights also help children who may have weaker hands as it helps them push down on the paper and make marks. Weights can be added to the pencil or can be wrapped around the hand to stop hand fidgeting while writing.



- Vibration: Using a vibrating utensils can provide input to the child through their hand to help them become more aware of their hand for writing. It can also normalize writing speed, assist with grip, and strengthen the hand.



ASD's Trans-Digital Device

