

## Handies Activity Sheet

**Child's name:**

---



---

### Hand skills

These activities have been put together to improve hand strength and fine motor skills, thereby helping handwriting skills.

The activities can be done in any order.

They should ideally be carried out about three times a week for about 10 to 15 minutes.

### Equipment needed

- Theraputty
- Paper
- Toothpicks
- Elastic Band

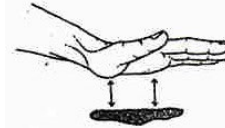
#### 1. Grasp

Child is able to identify body parts as directed by an adult, e.g., touch your left arm.



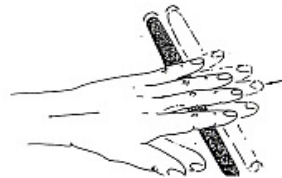
#### 2. Wrist extensions

Whilst standing, flatten ball of putty with the palm of the hand (not fingers) into a flat pancake.



#### 3. Extension

Roll out a ball of putty into a sausage using the whole hand. Use one hand at a time, then two hands together on the table and then try rolling the sausage between two hands up in the air.



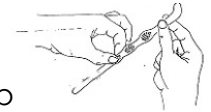
#### 4. Finger extension

Use a straightened finger to press into the putty to make holes in it. Repeat with each finger.



#### 5. Opposition

Hold putty sausage with one hand. Use the other hand to pinch the sausage between the thumb and index, and thumb and middle fingers, alternately. Repeat with other hand.



#### 6. Manipulation

With the child's forearm resting on the table, take small pieces of putty and roll them into balls using only the tips of the fingers and thumb. Repeat with the other hand.

#### Other suggestions:

- Tear up a piece of scrap paper, take a piece in one hand and scrunch it up into a ball using the fingertips. Using the thumb and index finger flick the paper balls towards a goal.
- Using a ball of putty, stick toothpicks into the putty to resemble a hedgehog. It is also good practice to pull the toothpicks out of the putty.
- Place an elastic band around the thumb and one fingertip and stretch it apart. Repeat with all fingers.

NB: When completing putty activities, particularly number 4, ensure the child does not hyperextend (bend the wrong way) at their finger joints, i.e. the joints towards the tips of their fingers.