



Fine Motor Skills Tips for Children Development (Sources: US CDC, UK NHS and others)

The discussion is for information purpose only and should never be used for diagnosis. Please consult a certified medical professional for diagnosis.

By 12 months

- Brings hands to mouth
- Moves arms
- May swing arms at toys
- Hands start to open more
- Holds small object in hand (without thumb tucked in hand)
- Holds hands together
- Reaches for toys with both arms
- Pushes up on arms when on tummy
- Briefly holds a toy like a rattle
- Follows objects with eyes in all directions
- Shakes and bangs rattles
- Brings toys to mouth
- Uses a raking grasp
- Transfers objects from one hand to the other
- Keeps hands open and relaxed most of the time
- Starting to have the ability to pick up small foods
- Able to release an object voluntarily
- Gives toy to a caregiver when asked
- Bangs two toys together
- Turns pages of a book a few pages at a time
- Begins to put objects into a container
- Points to objects
- Stacks 2 blocks

By 24 months

- Claps hands together
- Puts objects and toys into containers
- Waves goodbye
- Uses both hands to play
- Can isolate index finger with other fingers closed
- Scribbles with a crayon
- Beginning to use a spoon and cup
- Can build a block tower using 3-4 blocks
- Puts rings on a ring stacker
- Turns pages of a book one at a time
- Begins holding crayons with finger tips and thumb

By 3 years

- Likes to draw; holds crayon with fingers
- Able to imitate designs like a circle or a cross
- Has hand control to build block towers
- Can string beads on a shoelace
- Beginning with scissor skills

By 5 years

- Scissor skills show improvement - Able to cut simple shapes
- Able to do simple puzzles (6-10 pieces)
- Able to draw, paint and color (can draw a person with all body parts)
- Learning printing & cursive handwriting
- Can button and unbutton
- Develops good finger skills
- Able to place small objects (e.g., 1/4 inch beads) in a bottle quickly
- Starting to work with other mediums for art like clay, paper mache, etc.
- Likes video games and computer activities