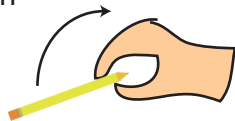


Teaching children how to hold a pencil correctly when they **first** start using a pencil is important to prevent the development of a poor grip. A poor pencil grip may impair a child's ability to write smoothly or comfortably, and is hard to correct if the poor grip has already become a habit!

Steps:

1. Place a pencil (or crayon) in front of the child with the tip pointing towards the child.
2. Have the child pinch the pencil near the tip and flip the pencil over so that it rests inbetween the index finger and thumb. The pencil should then rest naturally on your child's middle finger.



Verbal reminders to help:

Remind your child that the **thumb and index (or pointer) finger both touch the pencil!**



Visual Help: Use a permanent ink marker and put dots on the pencil to help children see where their fingers should touch.