



Connolly Primary School



Parent Resource Package

Preparing Your Child for
Term 1 Kindy



Collated by Claire Wigley and Ann Newton

Learning • Respect • Inclusion • Relationships • Independence



Getting Ready for Term 1 at Connolly Kindy

Fine Motor - Scissor Skills



When buying scissors remember you can buy left handed scissors.

Scissors that can be used in either hand are useful.

Scissors should open easily with a small movement of the hand and close without a lot of force.

Small scissors with small finger loops encourage an efficient grasp in young children.

There are some key basic foundation skills that will make 'driving' scissors a safe and enjoyable thing to do. For most children learning how to hold scissors is the first challenge.



Playing with different objects that open and close helps children develop some of the hand patterns that will be useful for them when they first encounter scissors.

Playing with water spray bottles – squirt the garden or concrete. Use them as a gun to knock objects off the wall or push ping pong balls along

Hole punches – small single hole punches help develop finger strength

Plastic tongs, teabag squeezers, tweezers – put them with bath toys so children can fish for sponges or other toys. Take them outside to collect interesting things in the garden

Water play – squeeze water from sponges into containers or make bubbles using whisks/egg beaters. Transfer water from one container to another. Have a race and see how many squeezes

Playing with pegs – sort pegs off a string line into matching coloured containers. Arrange pegs on a line in a pattern

Sticker games/sticker books

Simple card games encourage coordinated hand skills and finger isolating

Commercially available games e.g. kerplunk and games with spinners

Collage activities

Threading beads, pasta, cut up straws

Opening and closing plastic jars and small containers

Hammering activities

Nuts and bolts games

Construction toys



Links to cutting practice

OT Mom Learning Activities website has great ideas and printables to support your child to strengthen their fine motor muscles and develop good cutting skills.



www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/cutting-activities.html

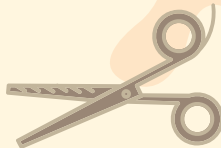
Home Tips for Successful Cutting



- Sing “open shut them” while your child is cutting
- Tell your child that the thumb is the boss and stays on top when cutting
- Sometimes a stamp or sticker on your child’s thumb will help cue him to keep the thumb on top
- Children often respond to thinking about scissors like driving a car. They can keep their car on the road (lines), drive slowly (no speeding), slow down on the curve and stop and turn at the corner.



- Smaller paper is easier to hold onto and manipulate than larger paper
- Shorter lines are easier than longer lines
- Thicker lines are easier than thin lines



Getting Ready for Term 1 at Connolly Kindy Fine Motor - Pencil Grip

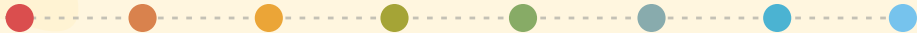
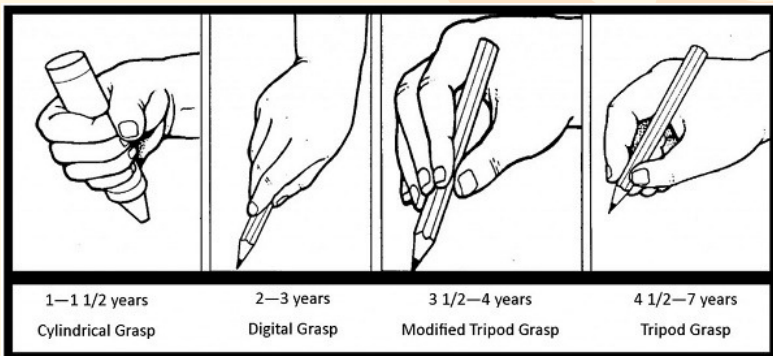


Children's hands have to be ready before asking them to correctly hold their pencil. The best way to do this is to give them fun activities to strengthen their hand muscles. They need enough fine motor play to learn how to control the small muscles in the hand that help us write. Activities that develop fine motor muscles include:

- Writing on upright surfaces such as easels, whiteboards
- Games that can be played upright such as magnetic shapes/letters on the fridge
- Felt board games, peg board games, Lego boards
- Game such as marbles, Kerplunk, threading games, lacing games, fingerplays and songs and construction toys
- Use eyedroppers to drip coloured water on paper
- Playdough activities
- Use tweezers/tongs for sorting games
- Experiment with a different variety of writing tools and different surfaces e.g. chalking on the pavement



Pencil Grip Development



Links to fine motor practice

OT Mom Learning Activities website has great ideas to support your child to strengthen their fine motor muscles and develop good fine motor skills.



www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/fine-motor-activities.html



Home Tips for Fun with Writing and Drawing

- Help your child make links between writing and the real world. Point out writing on signs, in books, on television, on computers. Model how you use writing by making lists, notes, writing emails, cards and writing down stories/ideas.
- Have fun with senses. Draw lines, shapes, squiggles, letters, numbers in different sensory materials such as shaving cream, paint, talcum powder or sand.
- Put rubber car mats, corrugated cardboard, sandpaper or carpet squares under paper to give a different tactile feel when writing.
- Go outside. Paint shapes and letters on concrete using large paintbrushes and water. Draw with chalk on pavers, write in sand at the beach.
- Play with letter shapes. Make shapes and letters using playdough, wikki sticks or pipe cleaners.
- Play Mr Squiggle. Make some interesting scribbles with your child then try to find pictures in it.
- Make fun dot-to-dot activities with stickers or stamps or use commercially available books.
- Play 'Torch It'. Help your child trace around outlines of objects on the wall using a torch beam.
- Play 'What Shape is That?' Draw a shape on your child's back and get them to guess what you drew.
- Play 'Secret Shapes' - make crayon rubbings over coins, leaves or commercially available templates.
- Children love to learn how to write their names. Model first, then encourage them to try one letter at a time. Please use the name writing laminate in your pack to guide the correct formation from the start. This school uses the New South Wales Foundation Font in Early Childhood.



Getting Ready for Term 1 at Connolly Kindy Tuning into Sounds



In Term 1 at Connolly Kindy we focus on Phase One of the UK Letters and Sounds Programme.

We develop children's speaking and listening skills and lay the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Term 2.

In phase 1 your child will be learning to:



Have fun with sounds

Listen carefully

Develop their vocabulary

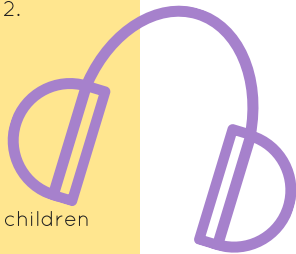
Speak confidently to you, other adults and other children

Tune into sounds

Listen and remember sounds

Talk about sounds

Understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds



Home Tips for Fun with Listening for Sounds



- Go on a listening walk. When walking down the road, make a point of listening to different sounds: cars revving, people talking, birds singing, dogs barking. When you get home, try to remember all the sounds you heard.
- Make your own musical instruments using cardboard rolls, tins, dried peas, beans, stones. Shake these loudly, softly, as you are marching, skipping or stomping. Play 'Guess what's inside the instrument'.
- Listen to a range of music with your child, from rap to classical. Encourage your child to move in response to the variety of musical styles and moods.
- Learn some action rhymes, such as 'Wind the bobbin up'.
- Listen to the sounds your feet make when walking, running or skipping: slowly, softly, fast, stomping hard, in thongs, boots, high heels.
- Try different types of clapping: clap your hands softly, quickly and make a pattern for your child to follow. Do the same clapping your thighs or stamping your feet. Tap your fingers.



Links to Tuning into Sounds

Letters and Sounds UK has a good website with interactive games



<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1-games>



"For extra ideas search:

rhyming games, alliteration games, blending/segmenting oral games for kindy"



rhyming games, alliteration games, blending/segmenting oral games for kindy"

More Home Tips for Fun with Listening for Sounds

- Get into the rhythm of language: bounce your child on your knee to the rhythm of a song or nursery rhyme; march or clap to a chant or poem.
- Read or say poems, songs, nursery rhymes and rhyming stories.
- Add percussion to mark the beats using your hands, feet or instruments. Try out some rhythmic chanting such as 'two, four, six, eight, hurry up or we'll be late' or 'bip bop boo, who are you?'
- Make fun noises and nonsense words.
- Say words in different ways (fast, slowly, high, low, using a funny voice)
- 'Sing' known songs using only sounds (for example, 'la, la, la') and ask your child to guess the song.
- Vary your tempo and pitch when reading stories.
- Play with alliteration (words that begin with the same sound). Your child's name can be a good place to start, for example, say: 'Harry has the hiccups', 'Carl caught a cat', 'Jolly Jessie jumped'. Encourage other family members to have a go, for example: 'Mummy munches muffins', 'Daddy is doing the dishes'.
- Emphasise alliteration in songs and stories e.g. 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers'
- Play around with familiar song, such as 'Old MacDonald had some sheep, shoes, shorts, with a sh sh here and and sh sh there', to emphasise alliteration.
- Identify the odd one out, for example, cat, cup, boy, car.
- Collect items that start with the same sound from the park, the garden and around the house.



Getting Ready for Term 1 at Connolly Kindy Numeracy



In Term 1 at Connolly Kindy we focus on



Recognising numerals 0-5

One to one counting to 5 and then to 10 (touching each object once when we count)

Understanding that numbers happen in a stable order

Subitising (recognising at a glance) quantities of objects or dots on a dice

Exploring repeating patterns

Recognizing and sorting shapes/colours

Working with others to problem solve



Home Tips for Fun with Number



- Introduce your child to simple board games that use dice or spinners.
- Play with inexpensive playing cards and dominoes
- Play dice games. Roll the dice and do that many jumps or find that many objects.
- Ask your child to count out the number of cups or plates needed at the table, how many pegs do you need to hang the clothes? how many oranges you have put in the trolley at the supermarket?
- Use calculators, scales, price tags, calendars, timers and clocks in pretend play
- Play I spy using number e.g. I spy with my little eye something that has 4 wheels, 2 wings
- Find numbers in books, shapes in books, count objects in books
- Look for numbers in the world around you e.g. car number plates
- Sing, sing, sing! Children love music and many songs are devoted to number e.g. 10 in the bed, 5 little monkeys, 1,2,3,4,5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive.
- Have fun finding shapes in the environment.
- Make shadows using lights and torches.
- Do craft and talk about shapes you are using.
- Use cookie cutters to make shapes with biccies or with playdough.
- Play with puzzles.
- Try cutting magazine pictures in half or into strips to make new puzzles.
- Make patterns on string with beads, pasta.
- Have a look for patterns in the world around you in flowers, fruit, on butterflies, on tiles, materials.
- Use coloured clothes pegs to make patterns on the edge of an ice-cream container or box.



Getting Ready for Term 1 at Connolly Kindy

Strong Bodies, Healthy Minds



In Term 1 at Connolly Kindy we focus on Basic Fundamental Movement Skills including:



- Balancing on the spot
- Balancing along a beam
- Climbing
- Rolling
- Music and movement



Home Tips for Strong Bodies

Ball Games

- Basketball hoops
- Handball
- Frisbee
- T Ball
- Hitting balloons
- Throwing the football
- Throwing rolled up socks/beanbags into buckets
- Kicking a beach ball

Sensory Games

- Rolling down hills
- Swinging and sliding
- Snuggling in a doona
- Crawling through chair tunnels
- Jumping on a trampoline
- Bouncing on an adult's knee
- Running with the wind in your hair or with ribbons/streamers

Coordination Games

- Dancing
- Skipping ropes
- Chasing bubbles
- Hula hoops
- Elastics
- Animals walks
- Simon says...

Balance Games

- Hopscotch
- Twister
- Walking on low fences
- Walking on cracks in the footpath
- Walking along a rope
- Bike riding
- Riding a scooter
- Silly walks

Strength Games

- Gentle wrestling with a parent
- Tug-o-war
- Monkey bars
- Climbing a tree
- Wheelbarrow walking
- Pulling a trailer/trolley with toys in it
- Digging in the garden

