

Fine-Motor Activities

The following activities give young children experiences with fine-motor activities.

1. **Tracing.** Students trace lines, pictures, designs, letters, or numbers on tracing paper, plastic, or stencils. Use directional arrows, colour cues, and numbers to help children trace the figures.

2. **Water control.** Children carry and pour water into measured buckets from pitchers to specified levels. Smaller amounts and finer measurements make the task more difficult. Colouring the water makes the activity more interesting.

3. **Cutting with scissors.** Choose cutting activities that are appropriate for the child's development level. The easiest activity is cutting straight lines marked near the edge of the paper. A more difficult activity is cutting a straight line across the center of the paper. A piece of cardboard attached to the paper helps guide the scissors. Children can cut out marked geometric shapes, such as squares, rectangles, and triangles. By drawing lines of different colours, the teacher can indicate changes of direction in cutting. Children can cut out curving lines and circles, then pictures, and finally patterns made with dots and faint lines.

4. **Stencils or templates.** Children draw outlines of geometric shapes. Templates can be made from cardboard, wood, plastic, or foam containers. Two styles of templates are (1) a solid shape and (2) frames with the shape cut out.

5. **Lacing.** A piece of cardboard punched with holes or a pegboard is used for this activity. A design or picture is made on the board, and the student follows the pattern by weaving or sewing through the holes with a heavy shoelace, yarn, or cord.

6. **Paper-and-pencil activities.** Colouring books, readiness books, dot-to-dot

books, and kindergarten books frequently provide good paper-and pencil activities to practice fine-motor and eye-hand development

7. Clipping clothes pegs. Clothespegs can be clipped to a line or to a box. The child can be timed in this activity by counting the number of clothespegs clipped in a specified time.

8. Copying designs. The child looks at a geometric design and copies it on paper.