

Hold the Pencil

There are too many children with awkward, even fisted pencil grips. You want your students to be able to use the pencil with the right combination of mobility and control. Children are “plastic”—they can be molded gently into good habits. While you may not be successful in every case, with some simple strategies you’ll find most children holding and using the pencil with a good grip.

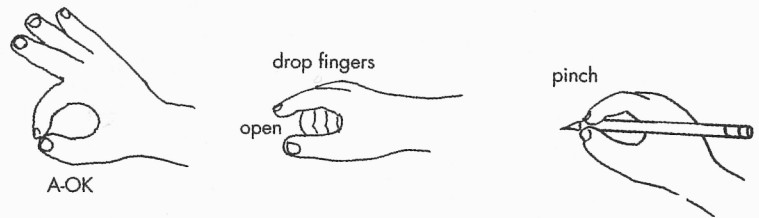
A-OK

Teach children how to hold the pencil correctly. This is the A-OK way to help children.

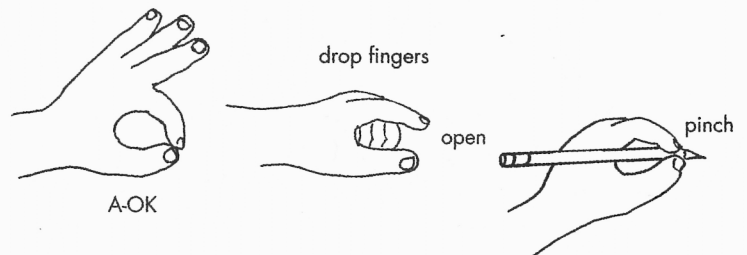
1. Make the A-OK sign.
2. Drop the fingers.
Open the A-OK.
3. Pinch the pencil.

The pencil is pinched between the thumb pad and the index finger pad. The pencil rests on the middle finger.

For right-handed students:



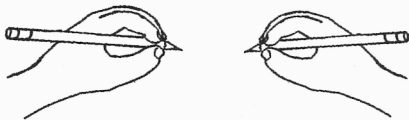
For left-handed students:



Alternate Grip

A good alternate grip is a pinch with the thumb and two fingers. The pencil rests on the ring finger.

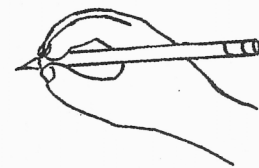
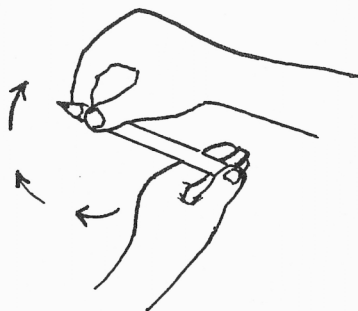
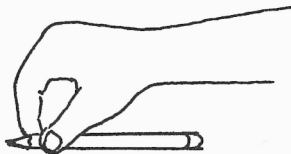
For left-handed students: For right-handed students:



Flip the Pencil Trick

Here is another way. It is a trick that someone (in Buffalo, I think) showed me and I’ve found it so effective and so much fun I’ve been sharing it ever since. Children like to do it and it puts the pencil in the correct position.

Illustrated for right-handed students



Place pencil on table pointing away from you. Pinch pencil and pick it up. Pinch the pencil where you should hold it—on the point where the paint meets the wood.

Hold the eraser and twirl it around.

Voila!