



## Intervention: Pencil Grip



*Description:* A pencil grip is a specially molded foam or gel plastic placed where the child grips the pencil. The goal of a pencil grip is to open the child's webspace between the thumb and index finger to facilitate a tripod grasp. A tripod grasp may improve the child's ability to control the pencil and typically reduces the child's fatigue during writing.

*When and why would you use this intervention?* A pencil grip is good for children that hold a pencil with too much pressure or exert too much pencil point pressure on the paper. It may also be a good choice for a child who has a tightly closed webspace that limits controlled precision finger and thumb movements. A pencil grip can also help a child who experiences muscular tension and fatigue that can limit writing speed or completion of writing assignments.

*How do you use this intervention?* Once you have chosen the most appropriate pencil grip that matches the child's needs, simply slide the pencil grip onto the pencil and encourage the child to write using the grip. The grip should be used at all times during all writing activities.

*Expected Outcome:* The pencil grip should facilitate a tripod grasp, enabling most effective grasp of the pencil. The grip will allow more controlled writing and should make writing easier for the child.

*Anticipated Problems:* One problem associated with pencil grips is the lack of consistency in use. Additionally, they are easily lost or misplaced. The teacher may not be able to monitor the child's use of a pencil grip to assist in its consistent use.