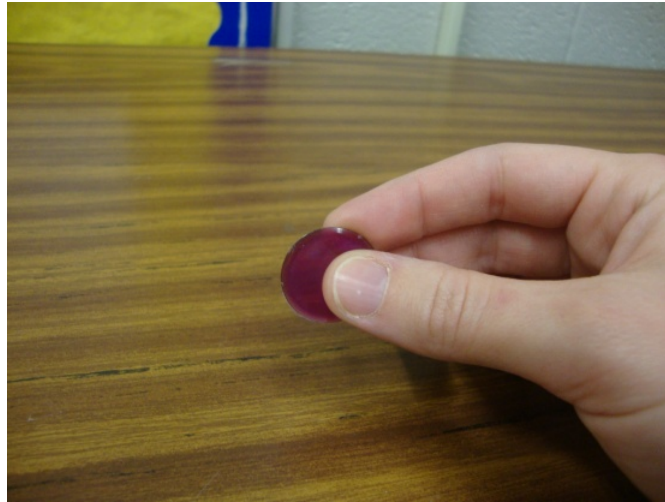




Pencil Grasp & Writing Pressure



Materials Needed:

Tiny or very small objects (skittle, cotton balls)

Blank piece of paper

Variety of coin types

Prepwork:

None

Task:

Therapist or teacher demonstrates how to hold the pencil using the thumb, index and middle fingers. Emphasize role of ring and little fingers as stabilizers. Students practice grasp.

Each student is given a small object and instructed to hold it against their palm using their ring and little fingers while holding the pencil with their skilled fingers.

Once their fingers are correctly positioned on the pencil and the small object, the students practice various levels of pencil pressure by rubbing on coins placed under the paper. Discuss what is "too hard", "too soft" and "just right" pencil pressure.

Student Goals:

Improve graded use of force and awareness of force

Improve skilled finger control of pencil and use of mature grasping pattern

Improve stabilization with ulnar side fingers