



Preschool Fine Motor Tip Sheet

The fine motor interest center should be set up to facilitate successful experiences.

The number of children allowed to play in the center should be appropriate based on the size of the area being used, as well as the ages and abilities of the children.

Chairs or other barriers should not block shelves or interrupt play.

A variety of materials should be readily accessible to children.



There should be enough materials from each of the following categories for children to complete tasks successfully. All **categories** should be represented.

Categories of Materials (with examples)

Manipulatives

String beads, gears, sewing cards, Mr. Potato Head, train tracks, unifix cubes, pattern blocks, etc.

Puzzles

Floor, knobbed, frame, etc.

Interlocking Building Materials

Legos, bristle blocks, Lincoln logs, tinker toys, blocks with less than 2-inch sides and not connecting, etc.

Art Materials

Crayons, markers, scissors, playdough, hole punch, stamps, bingo blotter, etc.

Language to use in the Fine Motor Center

Examples of vocabulary words

- sum
- connect
- scooping
- pouring
- lacing
- cutting
- tracing
- picking
- sewing
- pinching
- squeezing
- tweezing
- sprinkling
- weaving
- twisting
- beading
- stacking
- placing

Examples of open-ended questions

- What would happen if...?
- I wonder...
- What do you think about...?
- Tell me about...
- Who is that in your picture?
- How many will...?
- What are you planning..?