

SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Finger Crayons

Description:

This set includes 12 easy-grip finger crayons in 12 different colors. The stackable crayons measure 2 1/4" in length.

[Purchasing Information](#)

Image:



Who Might Benefit?

Those who...

- Have fine motor challenge and can't effectively hold a typical pre-writing or drawing tool.
- Need to use a spherical grasp to hold a writing/drawing tool.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to...

- Engage in pre-writing activities.
- Draw and color.
- Engage in creating original artwork.

Instructions for Use:

Environmental Considerations

- Use in any environment with a hard surface to support the writing or drawing material.

Positioning

- Use in any position conducive to prewriting and writing activities.

Alternate Positioning

- Use in any alternate position conducive to prewriting and writing activities such as taped to a wall for drawing while standing.
- On paper taped to a table-top slant board while seated at a table.

Basic Play/Use

- Crayons can be used to encourage early scribbling and free expression creative drawing.

Extended Play/Use

- Can be used to trace, copy, and draw lines and shapes.
- Color on coloring pages.

Adaptation Ideas:

Stabilize It

- If the child is having difficulty controlling the crayon for writing/drawing you could encourage the child to rest their forearm on the table while engaged in the activity which requires less control than using the entire arm. However, it should be noted that developmentally young children typically begin using full arm movements when drawing and writing and then transition to the more discrete motor movements of using their fingers and wrists for more detailed and controlled movements as they gain better control.

Simplify It

- If the child is having difficulty getting started on the drawing/writing task you might consider limiting choices of colors so there are fewer options for the child to choose from.

- Write letters and numerals.
- Color identification activities (e.g. naming, matching, finding, etc.).
- Stacking activities (the crayons are nestable within each other).

Play/Use with Others



- Use a shared space during table top activities and put one set of crayons on a share mat for every two students. During pre-writing or drawing activities markers will need to be shared between the two children. This encourages communication among students, practicing wait times, turn taking, collaboration, etc.
- Shared drawing/coloring activity - one child begins a drawing, and another adds to it during their turn. They continue alternating turns and adding to the drawing.
- One child creates a pattern and the other duplicates.

Contain it

- Crayons could be stored and presented in individual containers for each child. Crayons stored upright are often easier for children to pick up in a functional grasp pattern rather than picking them up off the table which typically requires additional in-hand manipulation skills to adjust to the appropriate grasp.

Communication Support

- Social story to indicate how the crayons should be used for the intended activity. (e.g. Often story themes center around keeping the crayons on the paper and not on table top or walls).
- Communication board with vocabulary appropriate for the writing or drawing activities presented. (e.g. I'm finished, color selection vocabulary, help, more, etc.).

Additional Considerations:

- Reseller suggests recommended ages of 24 mos. - 6 yrs. / Toddler - 1st gr.

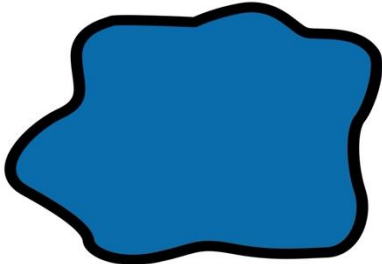
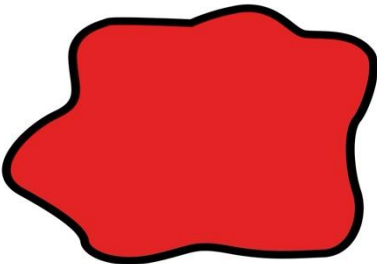
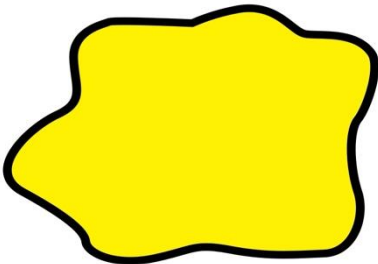
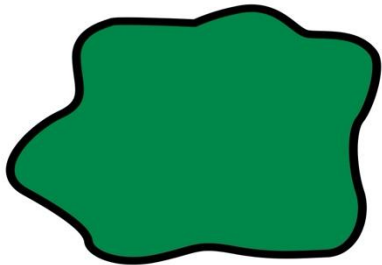
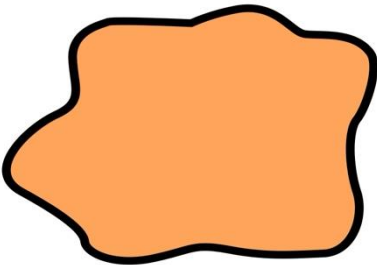
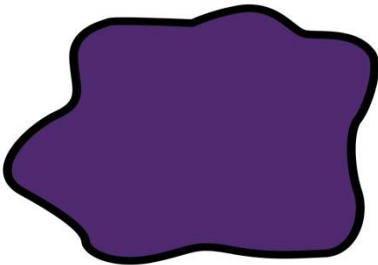
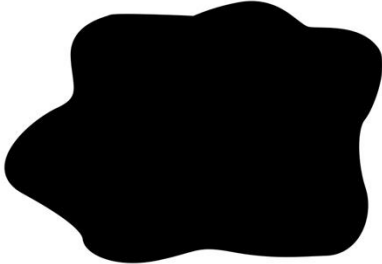
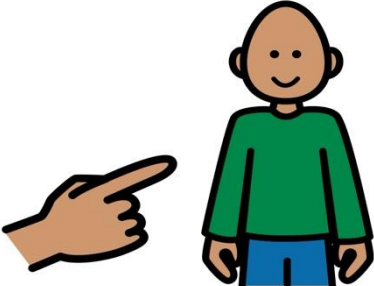
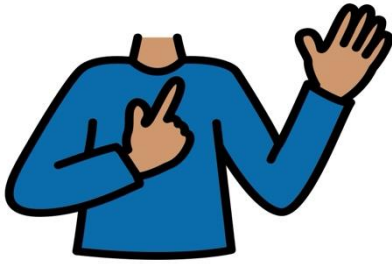
Resources:

- [How to Make Recycled Crayons](#) - If the child needs a special shape crayon due to challenges with grasp it is possible to recycle crayon and melt them into the needed shape and size.
- Video: [Ms. G's Story Time: How Is a Crayon Made?](#)
- Video: [The Day the Crayons Quit](#)

Ohio Early Learning Standards:

- LL: Print Awareness: Develops understanding that writing represents spoken language (4.a.).
- LL: Emergent Writing: Draws and writes using increasingly sophisticated grasp (4.b.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Blue 	Red 	Yellow 
Green 	Orange 	Purple 
Black 	Your Turn 	My Turn 

*"Adaptations" adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.