

# SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

## Jumbo Contoured Foam Grip

### Description:

Full-length 4" foam pencil grip with a contoured, ergonomic design that facilitates an open web space. Jumbo Contoured Foam Pencil Grips are made of colorful dense foam that adds weight to writing utensils.

[Purchasing Information](#)

### Image:



### Who Might Benefit?

Those who...

- Are sensory seekers.
- Hold their pencil too tightly.
- Have reduced grip strength.
- Demonstrate motor challenges and can't hold a writing/drawing tool in the typical way.
- Can benefit from the use of tactile (touch) and visual cues to learn how to hold a pencil efficiently.

### Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to...

- Grip pencil or pen comfortably.
- Receive extra sensory input while gripping the writing tool.
- Draw, color, or write.
- Mark on worksheets.
- Develop functional grasp for holding marking tools such as crayons, paintbrushes, pencils, etc.

### Instructions for Use:

#### Environmental Considerations

- Use in any environment in which writing or drawing takes place.

#### Positioning

- Can be used in any position conducive to prewriting and writing activities (e.g. sitting at table, standing at easel, lying on tummy).
- Check table height. For children having trouble drawing or writing, it is possible that they are seated in a chair or at a table too high to provide the stability they need to control their crayons, pencils, or other marking tools. See [Correct Sitting Posture](#)

### Adaptation Ideas:

#### Optional Additional Materials/Supplies

- Slant board
- Easel
- Clipboard
- Dycem or shelf liner
- Tape

#### Build It Up

- Enlarge grip even more if indicated with Dycem, shelf liner, or other textured materials.

#### Stabilize It

- If the Jumbo Contoured Foam Grip slides on the writing tool because the hole in the grip is too large, use an elastic hair tie,

[for Kids](https://developlearngrow.com/) from  
<https://developlearngrow.com/>.

### Alternate Positioning

- Use with a slant board.
- Tape paper on an easel or vertical plane (wall, filing cabinet, refrigerator) to help refine grasp as well as help the child view what they are drawing.

### Basic Play/Use

- Copy, draw, and write.
- Imitate prewriting strokes (lines, circle, cross, triangle, square).
- Grips can be placed on writing tools for use during shared paper and pencil games (e.g. Tic Tac Toe, Dots and Boxes, etc.).

### Extended Play/Use

- Use grip with paintbrush and other marking and art tools.

### Play/Use with Others

- Tic-Tac-Toe

Wikki Stix, or a small amount of tape at the bottom of the grip can help to stabilize it so it doesn't move. Be careful that the addition of the stabilizing material does not push the grip too far up from the point of the writing implement. Most of the grips are designed to be positioned close to the point of the writing tool.

### Add Sensory Cues

- Add fidget to the eraser end of the pencil.

### Communication Support

- Communication board with vocabulary appropriate for the writing or drawing activities presented. (e.g. I'm finished, color selection vocabulary, help, more, etc.).

### DIY Alternatives

- Trial inexpensive pencil grips found at Discount Store/Dollar Stores.
- Create pencil grips from pink sponge rollers.
- Push pencil through squeeze ball or wiffle ball.
- Add weight to the pencil.
- Try using very short pencil stubs (like golf scoring pencils) with or without additional grips to refine pencil grasp.
- Wrap marking tools with Wikki Stix or rubber bands.

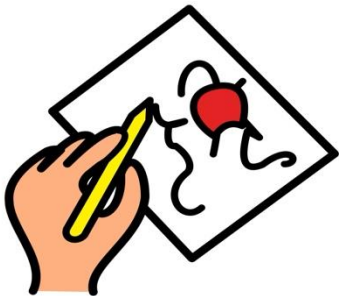
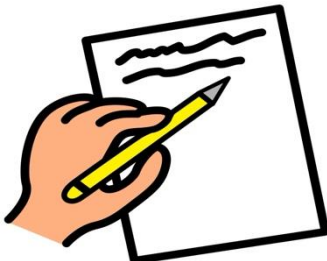
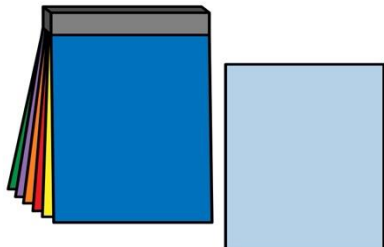
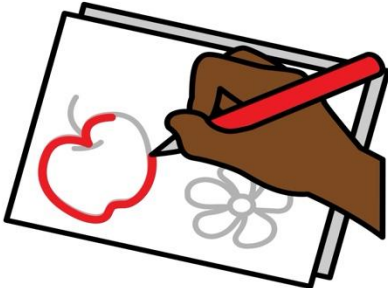
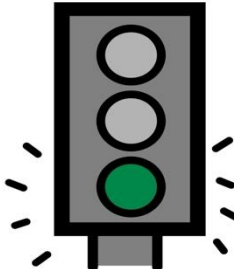
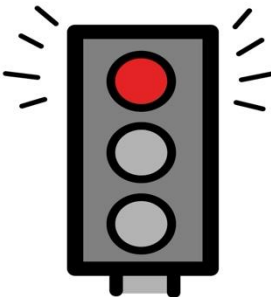
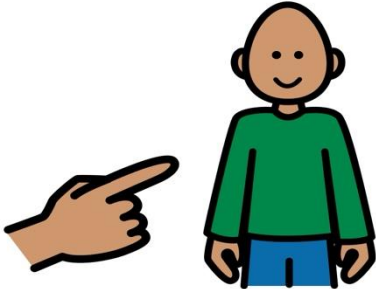
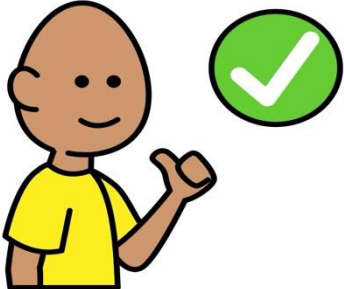
### Resources:

- [How to Make Your Own Adapted Pencils/Tools](#) - provides many ideas on how to make your own adapted pencils and tools including building up grips with a variety of commonly available materials and weighted pencils.

### 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

|                                                                                                   |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Draw</p>      | <p>Write</p>       | <p>Paper</p>  |
| <p>Trace</p>     | <p>Go</p>          | <p>Stop</p>   |
| <p>My Turn</p>  | <p>Your Turn</p>  | <p>Done</p>  |

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

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