

Checklist

Fine motor skills milestones for toddlers

Toddlers 18-24 months

- Hold a pencil or crayon in their fist.
- Use a crayon or pencil to scribble or make marks on a piece of paper.
- Pick up small objects like raisins using only the thumb and index finger (pincer grasp).
- Place objects in a container and dump them out again.
- Hold a toy with one hand and poke, push or pinch parts of it with the other.
- Finger feed themselves.
- Scoop food using a baby spoon or fork.
- Bring a baby spoon to their mouth for feeding, but they'll still probably get lots of food on their face.

Toddlers 24-30 months

- Begin to show a hand preference (for the left or right hand).
- Jab at paper and on it by holding a pencil or crayon in their fist and moving their entire arm while.
- Turning the pages of thick books one by one (instead of two by two or three by three).
- Roll, squeeze and pound playdough to make shapes.
- Use scissors to snip at the edges of the paper (which they'll probably hold at an awkward angle).
- Hold scissors incorrectly, for example with both hands.
- Dollop glue onto paper (and have lots of fun in the process) but be unable to spread it.

Toddlers 30-36 months

- Holding pencils, crayons and other writing implements in their fingers instead of their fist, but not yet in the correct writing grasp.
- Scribble circles and lines on their paper.
- Stack blocks and connect interlocking blocks.
- Thread a large bead onto a shoelace.
- Play with a peg board that uses large pegs.
- Do simple jigsaw puzzles, for example shapes or four piece puzzles.
- Feed themselves using utensils like a spoon.
- Drink from a cup without a lid on their own.
- Hold the cup in one hand.
- Help dress themselves.
- Unfasten large buttons
- Put on outer clothing like a jacket without help.
- Fasten and unfasten large zippers.
- Wash their hands with an adult's help.
- Turn a door knob.