

Fine motor milestones for ages 3-6

Fine Motor Skill Development for 3–4-year-olds

- Tracing on thick lines
- Using one hand consistently for most activities
- Copying a circle or imitating a cross or t
- Holding a pencil with thumb and fingers on opposite sides of the pencil
- Cutting roughly around pictures, able to follow straight thick lines.
- Stringing small beads
- Folds and creases paper

Fine motor skill development for 4-5-year-olds:

- Cutting along a line continuously, starting to be able to cut simple shapes and squares.
- Imitates then copies a diagonal, square, triangle and X.
- Holding the pencil with a tripod grasp (3pt grasp).
- Colouring inside the lines.
- Colouring an entire picture.
- Writing their name.
- Copying numbers 1-5.
- Copying letters
- Copying simple pictures using geometric shapes.
- Independently attempting to draw a range of pictures.
- People should have head, arms and legs, they will start to add details such as a body.
- Opens all fasteners (zippers, snaps)

Fine motor skill development for 5-6-year-olds:

- Cut out simple shapes moving towards rounded shapes.
- Writing numbers 1-10 independently
- Self-generating letters independently
- Copying a triangle
- Connects two dots with a straight line.
- Colouring within the lines
- Holding a pencil with a 3 fingered grasp and generating movement from fingers (not wrist).
- Cut and paste projects, including folding.
- Drawing basic pictures.
- People will become more accurate and detailed, 6 parts or more.
- Become more independent with tying shoes, zipping a coat or doing buttons.