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| **Age** | **Hand Skills** | **What You Can Do To Encourage These Skills** |
| **1-6**  **months** | * **Babies are born with a grasping reflex and will close fingers when the palm is touched (newborn to 2 months)** * **Baby will open hands and attempt to grasp an object (approx. 8 weeks)** * **Reach toward an object but does not grasp it (approx. 1-4 months)** * **Uses vision to reach for and grasp objects accurately (approx. 5-6 months)** * **Radial palmer grasp (thumb is opposed) which allows a firm grip around an object (approx. 7 months)** * **An inferior pincer grasp develops-allowing the child to grasp a small object between the side of the finger and the thumb pad (9 months)** * **Places toys in their mouth (birth-6mos.)** * **Bats at toys and mobiles (birth-6mos.)** * **Throw toys (birth-6mos.)** |  |
| **6-12 months** | * **Crude raking of small object (7 months)** * **Grasp and throw objects with greater accuracy (approx. 9-12 mos.)** * **Accurately releases objects into a container (approx. 9-12 mos.)** * **Child is able to isolate index finger (approx.10 months)** * **Pincer grasp is developed-child is able to stabilize a small object between its index finger and thumb (approx. 12 months)** * **Picks up a spoon by the handle (approx. 1 year)** |  |
| **12-18 Months** | * **Turns pages of cardboard book (approx. 12-15mos.)** * **Builds 2 cube tower (appox.12-15 mos.)** * **Bilateral hand use to navigate their environment (Child uses two hands together)** * **Scribbling with a crayon (approx. 12-24 months)** * **Place rings on a cone (approx.12-24 mos.)** * **Imitate simple strokes (approx.12-24 mos.)** * **Grab block and throw it into a container (approx.13 mos.)** * **May be ready to scribble (approx.13 mos.)** * **May be able to use a spoon –but not consistently (approx. 13mos.)** * **Can hold crackers and similar shaped foods (approx.12-15mos.)** * **Pincer grasp-Child can use the index finger and thumb to hold small item (approx. 18 months)** * **Feed self with spoon (approx. 18 mos.)** * **Hold a cup (approx.18mos.)** * **Stacks 3 blocks (approx.16 months)** * **Imitates crayon stroke (approx.16-19 months)** | * **Nesting toys** * **Play games that require your child to roll balls back and forth** |
| **18-24**  **Months** | * **Holds a crayon or marker without help (21)** * **May start to use one hand over the other (approx. 21mos.)** * **Tower of 6 cubes (approx. 22mos.)** * **More involvement of using “helping hand” during feeding (approx. 23 months)** * **Attempts to fold paper (approx.20-23 mos.)** | * **Introduce puzzles with large pieces and knobs** |
| **2-3 Years** | * **Begins to color on paper** * **Completes pegboard designs** * **Carry large ball with 2 hands** * **Eat with fork and spoon** * **Zips/unzip zipper** * **Child can complete a 3 shape puzzle** * **Turns pages of a book one at a time** * **Imitates horizontal, vertical and circles** * **Turns door knobs to open doors** * **Snip with scissors** * **Manipulates buttons on clothing** | * **Play with 1 inch beads** * **Read books and have your child turn the pages** * **Have your child attempt to use the zippers and buttons on their clothes** |
| **3-4**  **Years** | * **Is able to draw and name a circle and cross** * **Color simple picture** * **Copy vertical and horizontal lines** * **Accurately string ½ inch beads** * **Towers cubes** * **Snip paper with scissors** * **Copy a 3 block pyramid** |  |
| **4-5 Years** | * **Demonstrates good use of both hands together (Bilateral Coordination)** * **Draws and Names Pictures** * **Cuts and pastes simple pictures** * **Copies simple forms and some letters** * **Increasingly good fine motor control (use of hands and fingers)** * **Holds crayon or marker with tripod grasp (approx. 5 years)** * **Cuts on line with scissors-although not perfectly (approx. 5 years)** * **Preference of one hand (hand dominance) is established (approx. 5 years)** * **May be able to color within the lines (approx. 5 years.)** * **Reproduces many shapes and letters (approx. 5 years)** |  |