

Sensory and Physical

What you might see:

You might see a child who:

has difficulty using their hands for small tasks compared to other children of the same age.

finds mark making, letter formation, handwriting, or presentation difficult.

struggles to pick up small objects using their fingers (pincer grip).

Fine Motor Skills

What you can try:

- Reduce the amount of writing needed to show learning.
- Use writing frames, sentence starters, cloze activities, lists, mind maps, highlighted notes, or verbal questioning instead of extended writing.
- For older pupils, provide copies of notes or PowerPoint slides where helpful.
- Offer alternative ways for children to record their work, such as using a tablet, laptop, or other ICT.
- Provide different types of keyboards and mice, including large-key keyboards or one-button mice.
- Allow extra time for children to complete tasks.
- Build in regular fine motor activities within the classroom, such as using a fine motor box.
- Include short hand or finger exercises and breaks during learning or writing tasks.
- Provide activities that encourage children to practise handwriting, letter formation, and fine motor skills in motivating ways, including classroom jobs.
- Offer a range of adapted equipment, such as pencil grips, adapted scissors, or ridged rulers, for children to choose from.
- Provide different mark making tools such as chunky brushes, chalk, pens, and crayons.
- Allow children to mark make on a range of surfaces, indoors and outdoors, including chalkboards, light boxes, sand, or pathways.
- Provide opportunities to mark make on vertical surfaces.