



Fine Motor

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your child is learning to hold pens, crayons, and markers with her thumb and two fingers just like big people do. She has learned to make scissors open and close and can make snips in paper when you hold it. She can string beads easily and can work puzzles with four or five pieces.

Yummy Puzzles Cut off the front part of your child's favorite cereal box. Now cut this into four or five puzzle pieces. Your child will have fun putting this simple puzzle together. He may need a little help at first.

Copy Me Show your child how to make lines and circles. You might also try simple shapes. Circles and straight lines will be easiest for your child to copy. Your child may want to learn to write the first letter of her name when you are playing this game. Keep it fun. Celebrate any attempt at writing a letter, even if it doesn't look much like the real thing.

Tong Time Give your child a pair of small kitchen tongs or ice tongs. See if he can move cotton balls from one container into another. Then try something heavier such as walnuts, spools, or small stones.

Junior Mechanic Collect large bolts, matching nuts, and even washers. Your child will enjoy matching the bolt to the nut and twisting them together. Watch your child to be sure she doesn't put anything in her mouth.

Little Beader Have fun stringing large buttons, beads, large pasta tubes (e.g., macaroni, rigatoni), or large loop-shaped cereal. Make sure the string, shoelace, or yarn your child is using has a stiff end; wrap tape around the ends of string to make it easy for beading. Let your child make a necklace for you and one for him. What concentration!

Bubbles on Paper Let your child use a washable crayon or felt-tip pen to draw bubbles on paper. Show her how to draw big bubbles and little bubbles, purple bubbles and green bubbles. Let her draw as many as she wants. Now that she has drawn so many bubbles, maybe it's time to blow some real bubbles!



30–36 months