

Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more engaging, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the [Twinkl Parents](#) website.

games



crafts



puzzles



experiments



word searches



What is this resource and how do I use it?

Help your child get ready to write at school with this fine motor skills challenge! Did you know that the best way to prepare your child for writing is to enjoy plenty of hand-strengthening activities together? Enjoy all the fun of modelling dough, threading and even baking – getting ready for writing without the need to pick up a pencil.

What skills does this practise?

Starting School

Home Challenge

Fine Motor Skills

Hand-Strengthening Activities

Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

Get prepped for your child's first day of school with our [Starting School: To Do List for Parents](#) or our [Top Tips and Advice](#). When the big day finally arrives, take some photos to forever cherish with our [First Day of School Photo Props and Keepsakes](#).

Parents Blog



Twinkl Kids' TV



Homework Help



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Parents Hub

Ready to Write: Fine Motor Skills Challenge

Get your hands ready to write with our super-fun motor skills challenge! Did you know that before you can write, the muscles in your hands need to be strong enough to hold and control a pencil? There are so many fun activities you can try (with the help of an adult) to strengthen those tiny muscles!

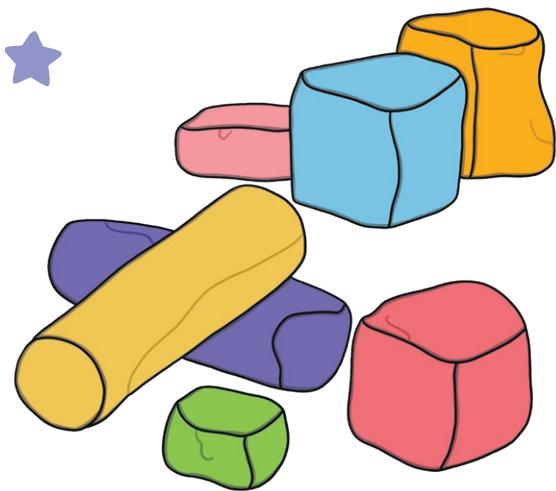


See how many of these activities you can tick off during the weeks leading up to your first day of school. It could make a rather exciting summer challenge!

Each time you complete an activity, cut out the matching activity picture and stick it on your challenge reward chart. Can you fill your reward chart by the end of summer? Don't forget to tick it off your Fine Motor Skills Challenge Checklist too!

Ready to Write: Fine Motor Skills Challenge

Fill a tub with water and add some mini pom-pom balls. Can you use some toy tweezers to remove the pom-poms from the water?



Use some modelling dough to make lots of different shapes. You could use our **ice cream**, **seaside**, **minibeast** or **under the sea** modelling dough mats to help.

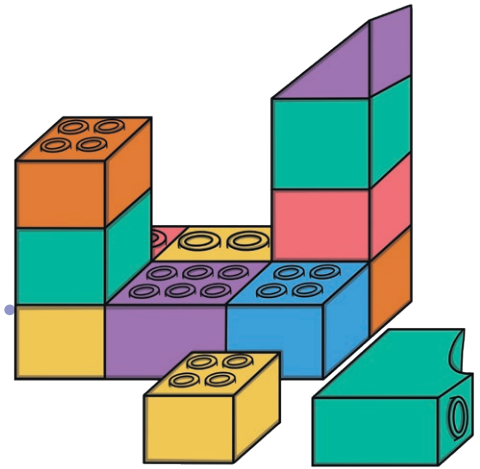
Make your very own low-lying washing line and use laundry pegs to hang as many socks as possible! For an added challenge, can you hang the socks in their matching pairs?



Thread some pieces of pasta onto string to make your very own necklace! If you want to, dye the pieces of pasta beforehand to make your necklace rainbow-coloured.

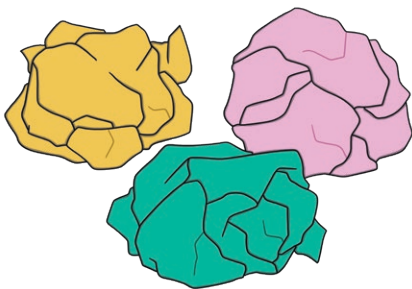
Ready to Write: Fine Motor Skills Challenge

Enjoy a creative building session with your toy blocks. These **Copy the Building Brick Model Challenge Cards** are sure to keep you busy!



Get creative with some fun fingerprinting! Dip your fingers into paint before decorating a picture - these **flower**, **summer** or **animal-themed** templates are perfect to use.

Have fun with buttons! Use a variety of colourful buttons to decorate a picture. Ask an adult to draw you a simple picture on card to decorate (this could be your favourite animal or type of food). Or maybe print off this **Button Placing** activity.



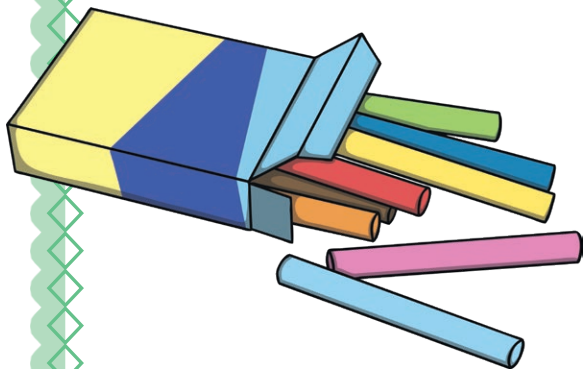
Scrunch up pieces of recycled paper into balls (newspaper is ideal). Once you have made all your balls, why not enjoy a quick game of target practice? Find an empty bucket and see how many paper balls you can throw into it (from a reasonable distance!).

Ready to Write: Fine Motor Skills Challenge

Get busy in the kitchen with some fun baking! Pick a simple recipe - ideally a recipe where you can use small pieces of fruit or sweets to decorate your baked goods. These **Gingerbread Superhero Biscuits** are great to try!



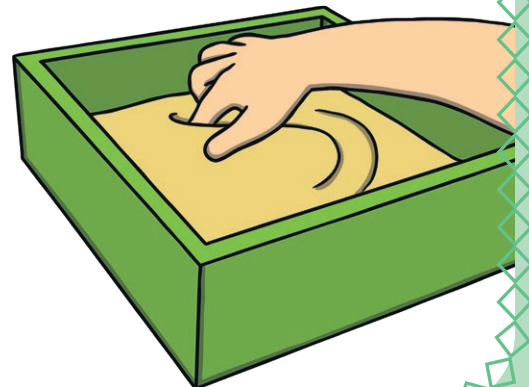
Use a pair of scissors to cut along different lines - they could be straight, wavy or zig-zag lines. Ask an adult to draw some pathways onto paper ready for you to cut. Or why not print out these **dinosaur** or **pets-themed** cutting challenges?



Go outside and use giant pieces of chalk to make creative marks on the wall or pavement. Then, fill a spray bottle with water and see if you wash the chalk marks away!

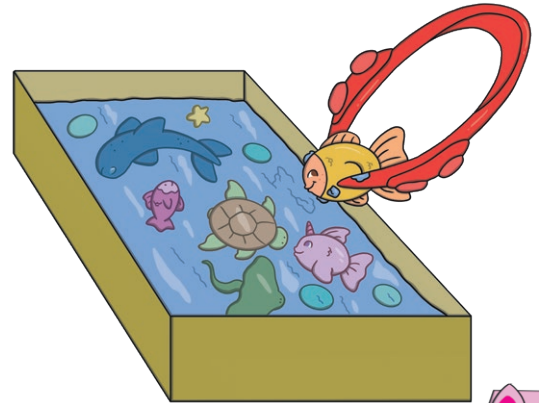


Enjoy making different marks while outdoors in nature. Use a stick (or even your hands) to make different patterns in soil or sand. These **Seaside Mark-Making Pattern Cards** are fun to use in a sand pit or even during a trip to the beach.



Ready to Write: Fine Motor Skills Challenge

Add some toy animals to a tub of jelly mixture before leaving it in the fridge. Once set, can you use toy tweezers to free the animals from the jelly? Remember not to use your fingers!



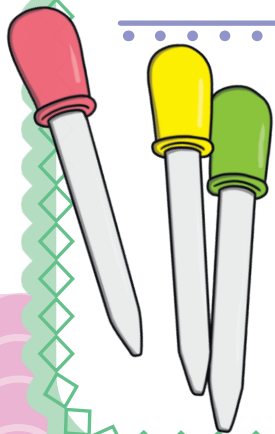
Have a go at using a paintbrush to paint a recycled box - with the help of an adult, you could turn the box into a house, a guitar or an animal. Maybe you could paint a box and transform it into a **tissue box creature**?



Use glue in a squeezezy bottle to stick decorations onto your very own crown! An adult may need you to make a simple headband from card but then you can get crafty by making it look beautiful. You could add foam shapes, craft gems or scrunched-up pieces of tissue paper — whatever you can find!



Mix some magical potions using a toy pipette. Ask an adult to help you make three bowls of coloured water — red, blue and yellow (just add drops of food colouring). Using only the pipette, collect some coloured water and add to an empty bowl. What different colours can you make? What happens if you mix blue and yellow water together?



Ready to Write: Fine Motor Skills Challenge

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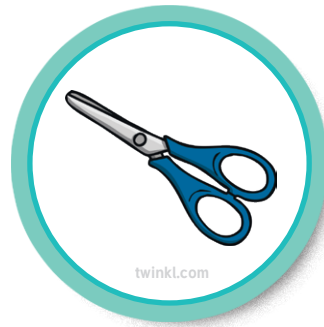
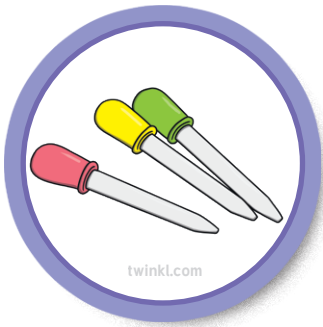
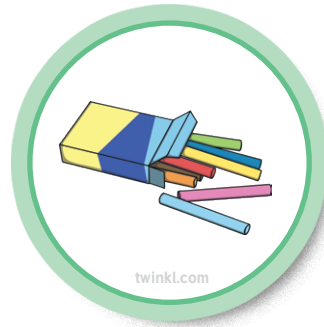
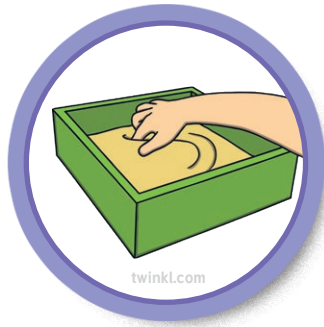
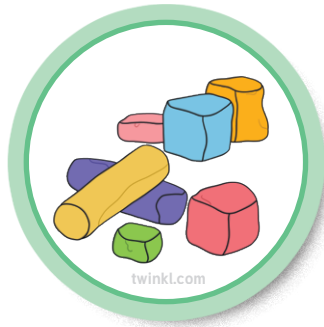
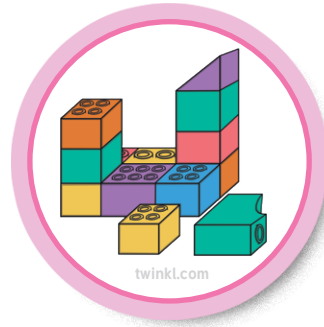
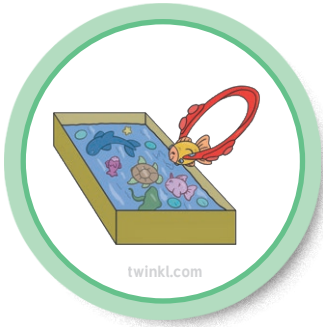
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Disclaimer: This resource is provided for informational and educational purposes only. As this resource refers to small items/loose parts which may present a choking risk, sharp equipment, sensory activities, food items/ingredients, water activities, physical activity and craft activities, you must ensure that an adequate risk assessment is carried out prior to using this resource. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of the allergies and health conditions of anyone making or consuming these products. Sensory activities can engage children in their play and learning, but supervising adults should check for allergens and assess any potential risks before the activity and only proceed if it is safe to do so. Deep water may present a risk of drowning. Participants must be suitably supervised when completing any activity near water. It is your responsibility to decide whether to carry out the activity at all and, if you do, to ensure that the activity is safe for those participating. You may wish to take guidance as to whether and how participants should warm up before taking part in any activity, and carefully assess any environmental risks to be sure participants have a safe space in which to take part. Twinkl is not responsible for the health and safety of your group or environment. It is your responsibility to ensure the resource and the information/activity it contains are safe and appropriate to use in your situation.