

CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Promote Fine Motor Skills

During the toddler 1 video, the teachers are providing opportunities for toddlers to practice developing their fine motor skills. Teachers can encourage the use of these skills by providing objects and toys that require manipulation and exact movements. The teachers in the video encourage fine motor skills by:

- Providing toys like peg puzzles, beads to string, stacking pegs, crayons, and pop beads
- Praising children as they try to complete the tasks
- Providing modeling and scaffolding as needed

Practice applying ways to express the key strategies demonstrated in this interaction on your own.

- Provide materials to help encourage fine motor play like puzzles, beads to string, stacking pegs, crayons, and pop beads/blocks
- Encourage and praise their efforts to practice skills in a playful, open-ended manner
- Appreciate a child's efforts to make marks on paper even when the drawing does not look like anything recognizable

When you are finished, reflect on the following questions.

1 What activity did you use to promote fine motor skills?

2 How did the children respond? What specifically did they do?

3 What was challenging? What were roadblocks to making this time enjoyable for the children?

4 What else could you do next time to promote fine motor skill development?

