**TIP SHEET:**

How to Hold a Pencil/Crayon

 The proper writing grip is called the tripod grip: the thumb, index and middle fingers support and the last two fingers are bent in the palm. By allowing your child to see you properly hold a writing tool, they can learn it in no time!

* Remember that every child develops skills at their own pace. Positive encouragement is key during this time of learning.
* Encourage self-feeding for toddlers to further develop their holding skills.
* Start early writing/drawing with small pieces of crayon or pencil. Small children will automatically pick up small pieces of food and crayons using their pincer-style grip.

The Crayon Song can be a learning tool as the child begins their writing/drawing journey:

**Pick up a crayon, pick up a crayon, this is easy to do,**

**Pick up a crayon, pick up a crayon, I tell my fingers what to do.**

**My thumb is bent, pointer fingers to the tip, tall man uses his side,**

**I tuck the last two fingers in and take them for a ride!**

**Now I’m holding it just right, but not too tight. Every finger knows what to do!**

**And now I have a big surprise, a big surprise for you…**

**Let’s drop them and do it all again!**

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