

3 & 4 year olds

Examples to support learning

Encourage children to transfer physical skills learnt in one context to another one. Suggestion: children might first learn to hammer in pegs to mark their Forest school boundary, using a mallet. Then, they are ready to learn how to use hammers and nails at the woodwork bench.

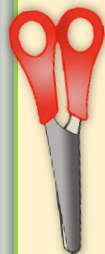
Lead movement-play activities when appropriate. These will challenge and enhance children's physical skills and development – using both fixed and flexible resources, indoors and outside.

The tripod grip is a comfortable way to hold a pencil or pen. It gives the child good control. The pen is pinched between the ball of the thumb and the forefinger, supported by the middle finger with the other fingers tucked into the hand. You can help children to develop this grip with specially designed pens and pencils, or grippers. Encourage children to pick up small objects like individual gravel stones or tiny bits of chalk to draw with.

Encourage children to become more confident, competent, creative and adaptive movers. Then, extend their learning by providing opportunities to play outdoors in larger areas, such as larger parks and spaces in the local area, or through Forest or Beach school.

Explain why safety is an important factor in handling tools and moving equipment and materials. Have clear and sensible rules for everybody to follow.

Physical Development



You can begin by showing children how to use onehanded tools (scissors and hammers, for example) and then guide them with hand-over-hand help. Gradually reduce the help you are giving and allow the child to use the tool independently.



Encourage children by helping them, but leaving them to do the last steps, such as pulling up their zip after you have started it off. Gradually reduce your help until the child can do each step on their own.

Model the vocabulary of movement – 'gallop', 'slither' – and encourage children to use it. Also model the vocabulary of instruction – 'follow', 'lead', 'copy' – and encourage children to use it.

Encourage children to paint, chalk or make marks with water on large vertical surfaces. Suggestion: use walls as well as easels to stimulate large shoulder and arm movements. These experiences help children to 'cross the mid-line' of their bodies. When they draw a single line from left to right, say, they do not need to pass the paintbrush from one hand to another or have to move their whole body along.



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