

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING cont.

- Plan activities that use a variety of materials to support *fine motor* skill development, with *adaptations* as needed, respecting *culture* and differing ability levels (paper, pencils, crayons, safety scissors, playdough, *manipulatives*, blocks, etc.).
- Provide opportunities for children to use handheld *tools* and objects (small shovels, measuring cups, large spoons with sand play or playdough tools with playdough or clay).
- Encourage children to dress, button, snap, and zipper themselves.
- Provide activities that help children increase hand strength, such as putting old safety scissors and rolling pins at the playdough table.
- Do finger plays with children such as “Where is Thumbkin” and “Five Little Ducks.”
- Work with children on effective ways to hold a pencil and scissors and provide many opportunities for meaningful and enjoyable writing and art experiences.
- Provide opportunities for children to practice crossing the midline of their body (center of body horizontally from top of head to toes). Examples include patting shoulders with opposite hands, crossing feet, reaching hand over hand, touching opposite ear, and clapping games with partners.

