

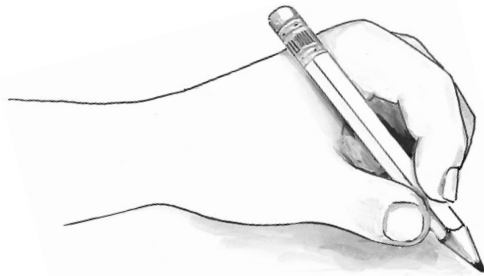
# Picking Up My Pencil

Dear Families,

We are working on holding our pencils correctly at school. The standard ways for children to hold their pencils are illustrated below. Some children like to pinch with the thumb and pointer. That's the tripod (three-pinch with thumb and pointer finger, pencil rests on the middle finger). Others like the quadropod (four-pinch with thumb and pointer/middle fingers together, pencil rests on ring finger). If you write using a grip that is different than tripod or quadropod, alter your grip for practice with your child. Children love to imitate adults and will copy you. The "Flip the Pencil Trick" is a fun way to practice positioning the pencil correctly.

## Tripod Grip

Eraser points to **left** shoulder.



Standard grip: Hold pencil with  
**thumb + index finger.**  
Pencil rests on middle finger.

Eraser points to **right** shoulder.



## Quadropod Grip

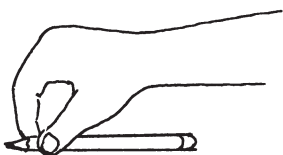
Alternate grip: Hold pencil with

**thumb + index and middle fingers.**  
Pencil rests on ring finger.

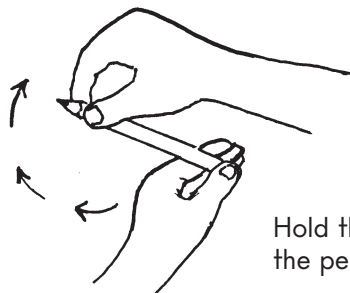


## Flip the Pencil Trick

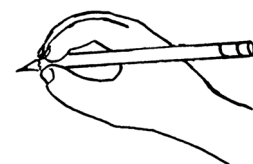
This is a fun way to practice placing the fingers correctly. Children like to learn it and it puts the pencil in the correct position. (Illustrated for right-handed children.)



Place pencil on table pointing away from you. Pinch the pencil on the point where the paint meets the wood.



Hold the eraser and twirl the pencil around.



Voila!  
Correct grip.