

# PARENT GUIDE: SUPPORTING YOUR EMERGING READER & WRITER



## FINE MOTOR SKILLS: GETTING HANDS READY

**Fine motor skills** involve the coordination of small muscles in the hands and fingers. These are crucial as they lay the foundation for drawing and writing.

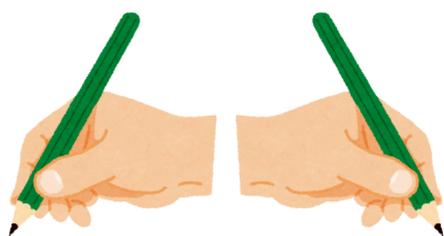


### Fun Home Activities:

- **Playdough:** Squeeze, roll, and shape for hand strength.
- **Scissor Practice:** Use child-size scissors to cut shapes.
- **Sticker Play:** Peel and place stickers to refine grip.
- **Threading:** String beads or Cheerios for coordination.

## HAND FUNCTION: GOOD PENCIL GRIP

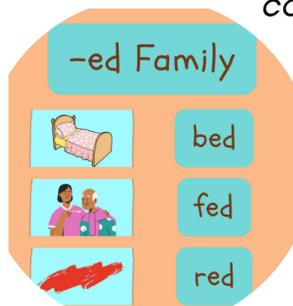
**To encourage good pencil grip**, use big pieces of paper and big crayons, brushes, or markers.



- **Why Size Matters:** Larger tools ensure children use the right muscles and hand positions, making them less likely to adopt incorrect grasps.
- **Visual Guides:** Use thick outlines to make coloring and drawing easier.

## PHONICS: CONNECTING SOUNDS TO LETTERS

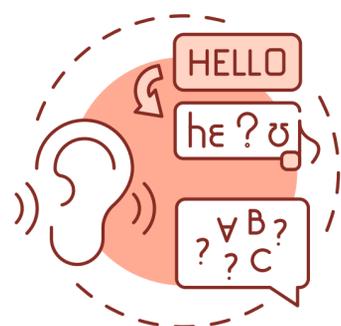
**Phonics** refers to the relationship between sounds and letters. It is the connection between spoken sounds and written symbols. A student with developed phonics skills can competently read and write a spectrum of words using their sound and letter knowledge.



### Key Skills to Develop:

- **Rhyme Awareness:** Hearing and producing words that rhyme.
- **Alliteration:** Hearing the same sound at the beginning of a set of words.
- **Blending & Segmenting:** Combining or separating sounds and syllables.

## HEARING THE SOUNDS: PHONOLOGICAL & PHONEMIC AWARENESS



- **Phonological Awareness:** The ability to recognize that words are made up of sound units, including rhymes, syllables, and words. It serves as the oral foundation for written phonics.
- **Phonemic Awareness:** A strictly auditory skill that does not involve print. It is the ability to hear, blend, segment, and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.