



WELCOME

Aiden

Kenzo

Thank you for coming to our Spring Concert!

## May

- 11 Mother's Day breakfast celebration
- 14 Mother's Day
- 18 - 19 Parents' conferences, **NO SCHOOL**
- 24 Free Dress Day
- 29 Memorial Day, **NO SCHOOL**

## April

- 4 Qingming Festival, 清明节
- 10 Easter egg art projects
- 11 Easter egg hunt
- 12 Spring concert, **MINIMUM DAY**
- 13 Holy Thursday, **NO SCHOOL**
- 14 Good Friday, **NO SCHOOL**
- 16 Easter Sunday

HAPPY  
Birthday

Dylan - 4/1

Oliver - 4/20

Jaxen - 4/25

Isador - 4/27

Sherry - 4/28

Sophie - 4/28

William - 5/5

Theodore - 5/7

Kenzie - 5/10

# Mother's Day Celebration

Thursday, May 11

8:30-9:00am



Please join us for our Mother's Day breakfast celebration! Your child would like to make and share breakfast with you. Fathers are invited to come from 8:15 to 9:15am to help with preparation and clean-up.



## REMINDER TO PARENTS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS!

Please send 3 photos of your child from each year (birth to age 5) to Office by **May 10**.

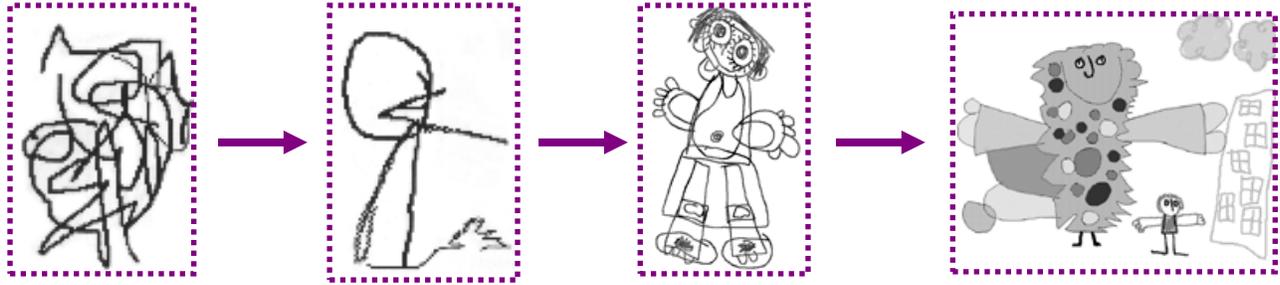
Dress code (graduates only!)

Girls: White dress

Boys: Blue or gray suit







## The Development of Drawing Skills in Children

Art plays an important role in early childhood development. Engaging in art activities encourages children to use multiple senses (sight, touch) and enhances their awareness of the physical, social, and emotional environments in which they live. It also strengthens muscle coordination and motor skills.

As you know, each child develops physically, socially, mentally, and emotionally in different ways. The same is true of children's artistic development. Children create art for different reasons, and in different ways. Still, there are several general stages of drawing development that most children go through. As parents, it is fun to track these changes and watch how your child's artistic expressions change as they grow!

<p><b>STAGE 1: Scribbling</b> (1 to 2 years old)</p> <p>At this stage, toddlers are enjoying the movement of scribbling on paper, rather than trying to represent the world. They tend to repeat certain motions (e.g., circles). Towards the end of this stage, they begin to name their drawings and explain what they are trying to show.</p> 	<p><b>STAGE 2: Preschematic</b> (2 to 5 years old)</p> <p>At this stage, children's drawings become more complex, although they are still relatively unrealistic. Objects float in space rather than being anchored, and people are drawn very simply, with few features. Children at this stage often choose to draw with their favorite color.</p> 
<p><b>STAGE 3: Schematic</b> (6 to 8 years old)</p> <p>At this stage, children usually draw activities from their daily lives. These drawings often include skylines and ground lines. People are drawn as geometric shapes, with facial features. Also common are "x-ray drawings," which depict both the inside and outside of an object (e.g., a house).</p> 	<p><b>STAGE 4: Gang</b> (8 to 12 years old)</p> <p>At this stage, drawings become much more detailed, and children's growing spatial perspective becomes apparent. They pay careful attention to drawing clothing, overlapping objects, and the physical environment.</p> 

# Understanding & Supporting Healthy **Pencil Grasp** Development

Toddlers and children typically move through several different stages of pencil grasps as they develop their fine motor skills. It is important to let your child move through these stages naturally, rather than force him/her to hold a pencil the way that adults do. **Pushing your child will likely cause more harm than good!**



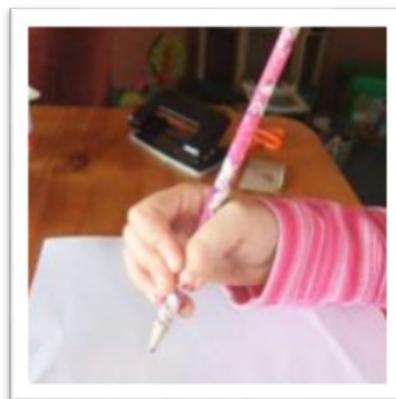
## Stage 1: Fisted Grasp

This is the grasp you should see when your child first grabs a thick crayon. Your child uses movements from the shoulder to move the crayon.



## Stage 2: Palmar Grasp

As your child gains more control over his/her arm and hand muscles, you will see this grasp. In this stage, your child uses both shoulder and arm muscles to move the crayon.



## Stage 3: Five-finger Grasp

In this stage, your child holds the pencil with all five fingers and uses mostly wrist movements to draw and color. Sometimes, the wrist is held off the table. This is a perfectly mature grasp for a 4-year-old!

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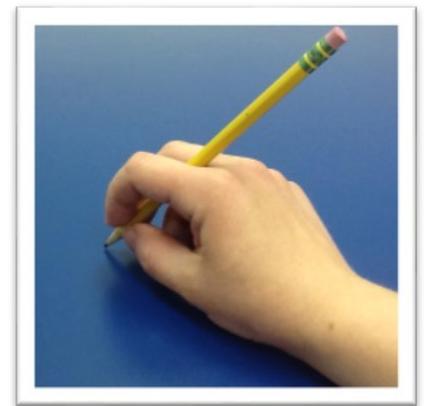


### Stage 4: Tripod Grasp

Around 5-6 years old (or sometimes even a bit later for some children), your child will become comfortable using a mature 3-finger grasp. In the beginning, his/her grip may be a little tight, and movements may still come from the wrist, but over time, your child will begin to use finger movements instead.

### Alternative Pencil Grasps

A child with less muscle tone and/or hypermobile finger joints may prefer using an alternative grasp like the D'Nealian Pencil Grasp.



## Supporting Your Child

As always, remember that each child develops differently, and at a different pace! Don't be surprised if you see your child switching between different pencil grasps. As children continue to practice their fine motor skills, their endurance will improve, and they will be able to use the final "tripod grasp" more and more consistently.

