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## Helping Children Develop Prewriting skills in Preschool

- ☺ **Work in vertical (helps improve grasp)**
  - Paint at an easel
  - Play with Lite Brite (preferably the 1980s version, try ebay if you don't have one)
  - 'Paint' the building, fence or play structure using large brushes and a bucket of water
  - Draw on a wall-hung dry erase or chalk board
  
- ☺ **Use tools**
  - Use zoo-sticks, or beginner chopsticks to eat food at snack time or lunch – make this a daily practice
  - Sit in a circle and pass around playing cards or puzzle pieces using clothespins – can they do without using fingers or dropping any
  - Capture small plastic animals in a water table or large bowl/bucket of water with zoo sticks or tongs
  
- ☺ **Color with crayons (crayon rocks are great) and chalk**
  - Color paper placed on plastic needle point canvas
  - Color in stencils (Dover press makes a lot of great ones)
  - Color over textured templates
  - Make rubbings of things found outside
  
- ☺ **Do functional tasks**
  - Roll up art work or poster and placing a rubber band around
  - Tear tape off of a tape dispenser
  - Wrap a small present
  - Use a hole punch
  - Use a paper brad
  - Sharpen pencils with a manual pencil sharpener
  - Use a potato peeler to peel a carrot or potato.