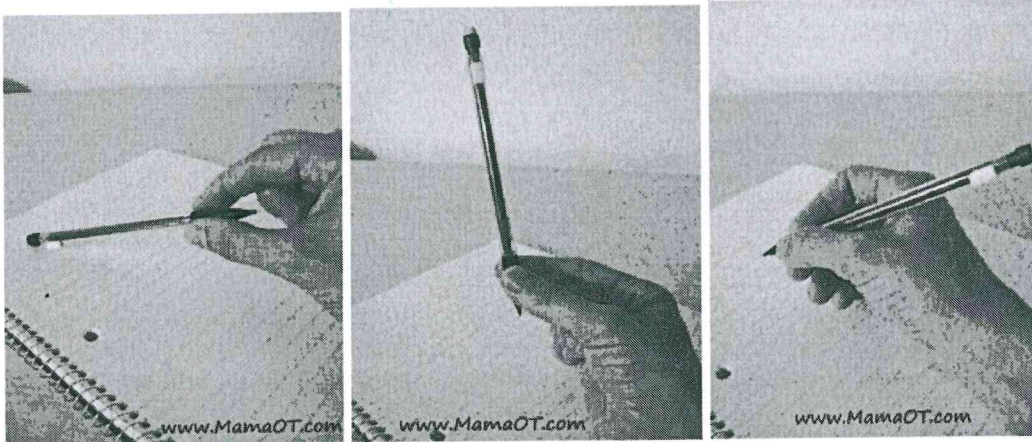


Trick #1: Utilize shorter pencils (golf pencils)/crayons broken in half/markers (Crayola Pip Squeaks) to limit the number of fingers there is space for on a given tool.

Trick #2: Introduce "Pinch and Flip"

Step 1- "Pinch!" At the tip of the pencil

Step 2- "Flip!" The pencil into the web space*



*Please let me know if you have a child struggling just with keeping their pencil pulled back in the web space.

Trick #3: Hide something under the ring and pinky fingers. This can be an eraser or other small rubber toy, a cotton ball or pom pom, bead, marble, ball of playdough or putty. Anything that is not so big that they can not close their fingers over it, or too small that requires them to squeeze their fingers closed very tightly to manage.

Trick #4: In addition to teaching students these "tricks", for holding their pencils correctly, they also need strong muscles in their hands, shoulders, and core to maintain sitting, and write with control.