

## Fine Motor

### Out!

**Setup:** Gather a variety of small manipulatives, such as pom-poms, pipe cleaner pieces, craft foam pieces, and lengths of yarn. Stuff the items in a plastic bottle. Provide tools, such as tweezers and chopsticks.

A student uses his fingers and the tools to remove the items from the bottle. Then he stuffs them back into the bottle for the next classmate!

**Tip:** This is a great center to have during a unit on colors. Each day, prepare the bottle with items that are all the same color. Or place a rainbow of items in the bottle and have students remove them and then sort them by color.



## Fine Motor

### Snip, Snip!

**Setup:** Search through a catalog, construction toys, and glue sticks.

A child searches through a catalog of toys, and he cuts out each item on a sheet of paper.

Students can then use the items to create a collage.

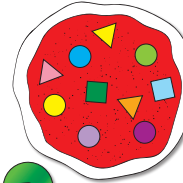


## Fine Motor

### Pizza, Anyone?

**Setup:** Set out red play dough scented with Italian seasoning along with a batch of white play dough. Provide a pizza pan (or cardboard circle), a rolling pin, a plastic pizza cutter (or plastic knife), and craft foam toppings.

A child rolls out a white play dough crust and places it on the pizza pan. Then he rolls out seasoned dough and places it atop the crust. He garnishes the pizza with assorted toppings and then slices it with the pizza cutter.



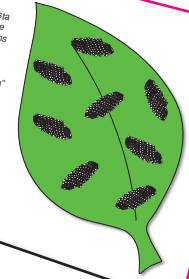
## Fine Motor

### Cozy Chrysalis

**Setup:** Place a table uncooked rotini pasta (or thick pipe cleaner pieces), a large leaf cutout like the one shown, lengths of white yarn, and glue.

A student manipulates a pasta caterpillar along the base and then slips so it can "munch" on the leaf. After a few moments of "munching," the chrysalis wraps around the caterpillar to form its cocoon.

After each child has the opportunity to "munch" on the leaf and the glue is dry, the little "Collection of Cozy Chrysalis" is complete.



## Fine Motor

### Vegetable Soup

**Setup:** Set out disposable bowls, brown tissue paper, and paper scraps. Also provide scissors, a squeeze bottle of glue, and a plastic spoon for each child.

A youngster crumples tissue paper (soup broth), puts it in a bowl, and then dices a generous amount of glue over the broth. Then he holds paper scraps above the bowl and lets them fall into tiny pieces (vegetables) that land atop the broth. When he finishes cutting and gluing, he pretends to eat the soup with a spoon and then glues it to the project.



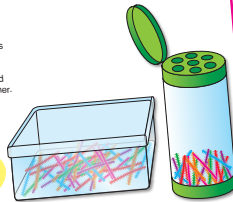
## Fine Motor

### Pipe Cleaner Poke

**Setup:** Get an empty pillbox or cheese container and cut colorful pipe cleaners into small pieces.

A child chooses a piece of pipe cleaner and then pokes it into a hole in the cheese container. She continues with other pipe cleaner pieces until the container is full.

**Tip:** For added spatial skills, provide a few other items to poke into the container, some of which are too large. Challenge youngsters to predict which items will not fit through the holes.



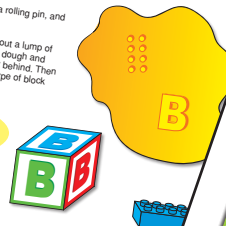
## Fine Motor

### Press and Print

**Setup:** Provide a batch of play dough, a rolling pin, and different types of blocks.

A child uses the rolling pin to smooth out a lump of play dough. She presses a block into the dough and then removes it, observing the imprint left behind. She repeats the process with a different type of block and compares the prints.

**Tip:** For a more challenging center, encourage students to press an AB pattern into the dough using two different types of blocks.



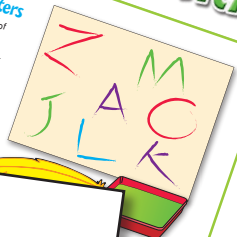
## Fine Motor

### Fine-Feathered Letters

**Setup:** Provide craft feathers, pairs of paint, and paper.

A child dips the quill and end of a feather in the paint and writes letters on her paper. She does the same with other colors of paint.

**Tip:** Provide other options for unique writing experiences, including spaghetti, pom-poms, and plastic flowers.



## Writing

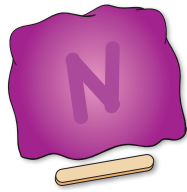
## Writing

### Copy It!

**Setup:** Set out play dough, a facedown stack of letter cards, and craft sticks.

A child flattens a ball of play dough. Then she takes a card, names the letter, and uses a craft stick to write the letter in the play dough.

**Tip:** Encourage the child to spell her name with the letter cards and then write her name in the play dough.



### Cloudy Letters

**Setup:** Attach a length of blue bulletin board paper to a tabletop. Set cotton balls, white crayons, and squeeze glue nearby.

A child uses a white crayon to write a letter on the paper and then traces it with the glue. Then he pulls pieces from a cotton ball and places them in the glue. He continues with other letters.

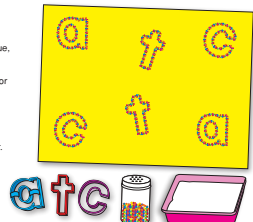


## Writing

### Glitzy Letters

**Setup:** Set out alphabet cookie cutters, a shallow pan of glue, glitter, and colorful sheets of construction paper. Also provide a plastic container for catching excess glitter.

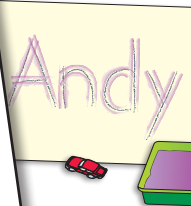
A child chooses a cookie cutter and identifies the letter, with help as needed. Then she dips it into the glue and makes a print on her paper. She sprinkles glitter on the glue and then shakes the excess glue into the container. Then she repeats the process with a different cookie cutter.



### Making Tracks

**Setup:** Set out toy vehicles, shallow containers of paint, and sheets of newspaper.

A child uses large letters to write his name on a sheet of newspaper, with help as needed. Then he dips the wheels of a vehicle in a pan of paint and traces each letter, identifying the letters as he works.



## Writing

### Tart Crust Patterns

Use with "Tasty Tarts" on page 7.

