



These are simple and playful activities to help develop your child's fine motor skills.

Developmental Milestones for Children from 30 to 48 Months:

- Thread beads on string
- Use scissors
- Copy drawing a cross
- Copy drawing a square



Ages: 30 – 36 Months

Activities:

- Noodle Jewelry Strands

Your child can make jewelry by threading large beads on a string. You can use big colorful noodles as beads. Have your child thread the noodles on shoelaces, ribbons, or string making their own colorful patterns. He or she can create necklaces or bracelets with friends too.

(Here's where you can find an easy recipe to make colorful noodles: <https://typicallysimple.com/how-to-dye-noodles/> for color noodles.)

- Play Dress Up

Use different types of clothing such as button-up shirts and pants to encourage the practice of grabbing buttons and pushing them through the holes with your child. As your child's fine motor skills improve, the buttons can be smaller in size. Dolls can also be used for this activity since they are smaller and so are their clothes.

For more fun, find an old suitcase or large canvas bag to store select clothes as dress up clothes. Use adult clothing you no longer wear because young children love to dress like adults. You could decorate the canvas bag or suitcase with your child using paint, stickers, buttons, etc. to engage fine motor skills.

Ages: 36 – 48 Months

Activities:

- Coloring

Coloring books with crayons can be used with your child to help them practice an adult grasp. If coloring books are not available, draw simple shapes on blank pieces of paper for your child to color in. If necessary, help your child get the proper positioning with their hand and fingers to achieve an adult grasp.

Also, you can work on cutting out simple shapes with child safe scissors since they are developing the ability to use scissors at this age.

- Copy a drawing

On a piece of paper, draw a line down the center to divide the paper in half. On one side of the paper, draw a simple picture with defined shapes such as circles and squares. Example drawings could include: rockets ships, houses, or the child's favorite animal.

Next, have your child attempt to copy the drawing on the other half of the paper. This activity could be made more difficult by making the drawing more complex or drawing the original picture in different colors and having your child match the colors in their duplication.

Resources:

Developmental milestones from Voress, J. K. & Pearson, N. A. (2013). Early childhood development chart (3rd edition).