



# Grip assistance & fine motor tools

The first step in fine motor use of any art tool is for the student to hold the tool. For those who find this more of a challenge, this guide provides a range of strategies. Use the student's own hand to mold customized grips around art tools. Choose tools designed for easy handling. And create an easy, effective handle suited for tools of all sizes.

# Grip strategies to make art tools accessible for all

## Crayola Model Magic

Make custom-molded hand grips for students with fine motor grip issues. Take a piece of Model Magic (about half of a 1-ounce bag) and wrap it around the art tool, such as a marker, crayon, or paintbrush, so that a ring is formed around the tool where the student would hold onto it. Hand the tool to the student and have them gently grasp the Model Magic to create a customized hand grip. Have the student ungrasp the tool and set it aside to dry with the tool in it.

After about 2 hours, while the Model Magic is still soft, gently twist the tool and release it from the art tool. Try to minimally enlarge the hole, allowing different colors of the same tool to be inserted for the student. Ideally, every few hours or so, retry the tool into the Model Magic so that it doesn't dry too small and crack. Let dry at least 24 hours or until firm enough to push the art tool in and out easily.

To customize the grip even more, color the white Model Magic by poking color markers into it and then twisting and manipulating the Model Magic to marbleize it. Proceed with the above directions to create custom color designed grips.



## Crayola Washable Tripod Grip Markers

As their name suggests, Grip Markers offer a good grip for all students, and their short size is fitting for students from early childhood to high school. Since it is designed for young students who can be a bit aggressive with their art materials, the rounded top not only holds up well to "smashing" onto the surface without wrecking the tip, but when used a bit more gently it makes a perfect circle that's ideal for small round details like eyes or buttons. These markers are also great for pointillism projects.

## Plastic Jug Grip

A plastic gallon milk, water, or juice jug can make a great grip for students who need fine motor support. Cutting the handle off the jug creates openings in the handle that can hold regular markers or other art tools such as paintbrushes or clay tools, as well as thinner tools such as pencils, crayons, chinks, thin markers, or oil pastels. Wrap a bit of masking tape or painter's tape around the tool to help it fit better into the hole, or push it into the hole with a piece of newspaper around it to secure it.

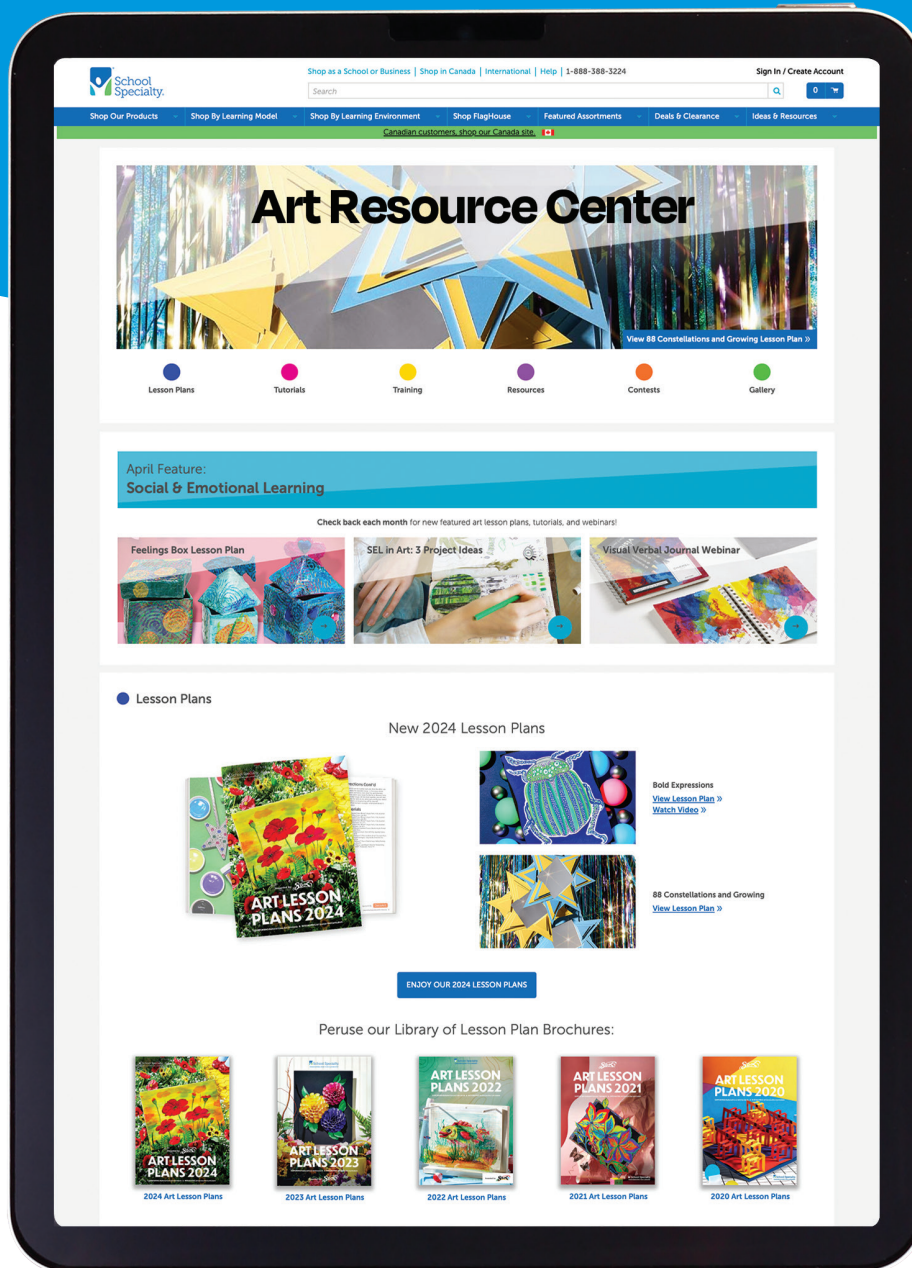


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