

Promoting Comprehending Hands through Active Learning

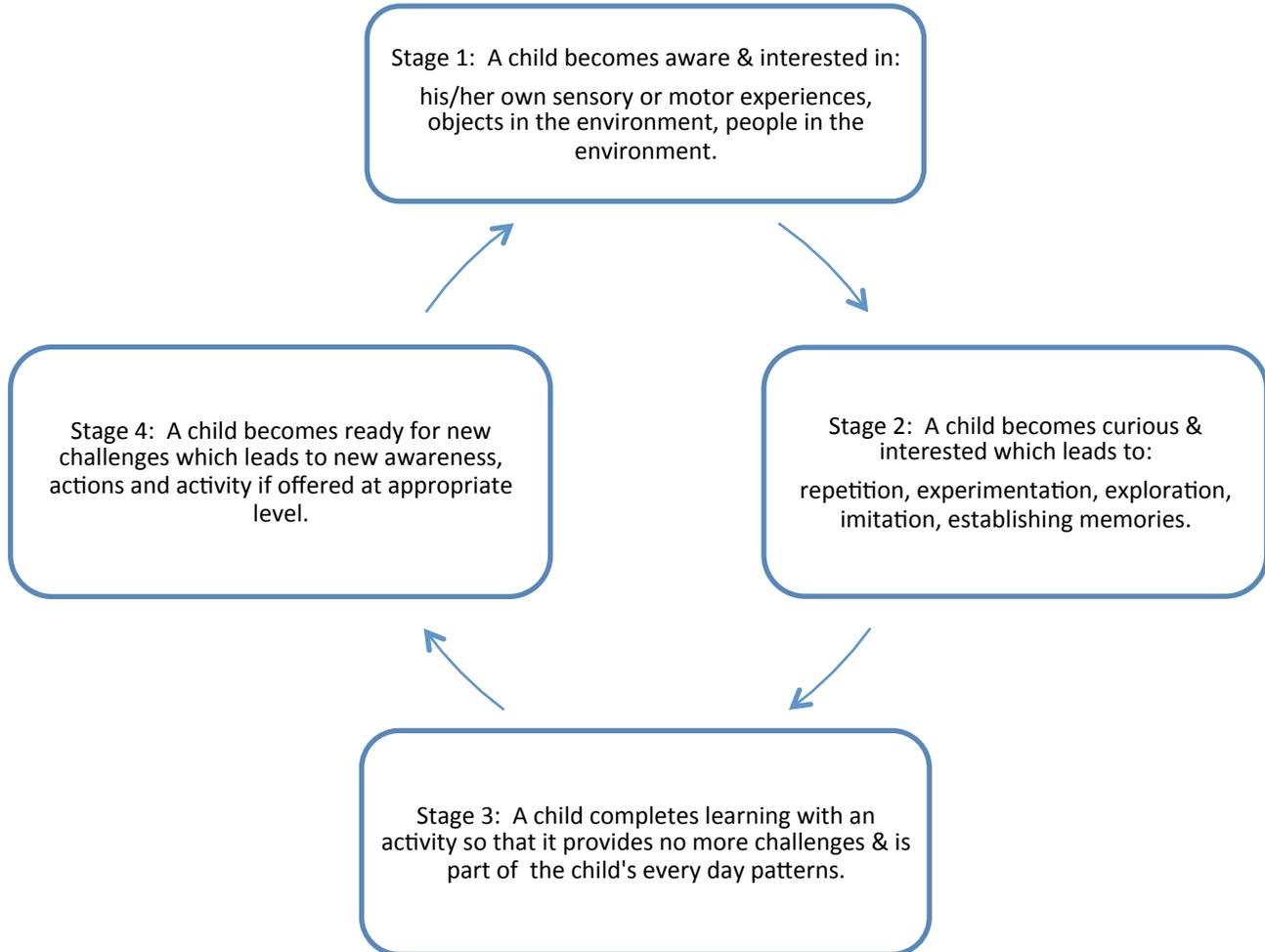
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“A child is a learner. As so, a child learns throughout life. A child learns gradually according to his/her level of physical, mental, and emotional capacity - no matter how old he/she is, or what type of special need has effected or is still affecting his/her ability to learn. Learning is therefore only restricted by a lack of learning opportunities in a poor environment.” -- Dr. Lilli Nielsen

If a child is unable to grasp, he/she will be unable to make full or sufficient use of the impressions he/she is experiencing.

Remember the Dynamic Learning Circle in relation to fine motor skills:



The Development of Grasp

Age	Hand position/grasp	Activities of hand
In utero	Development of hands in fluid environment, weightlessness	Movement of arm and hand Hand to mouth Pushes against uterus wall
0-1 month	Reflexive grasp Holds hands tightly	Movement of arm and hand Hand to mouth
2 months	Reflexive grasp Hold hands un-fisted ½ the time	Scratching motion Grasp and let go Releases objects without awareness
3 months	Voluntary grasp begins Hands un-fisted most of the time	Puts hands together Pushing motion/batting
4 months	Reaches Engages hand in supine (on back) Clutches objects Retains objects	Grasp and let go Grasps objects & keeps Releases objects purposefully Turns wrist
5 months	Transfers objects hand to mouth Palmer grasp with thumb adducted	Bangs on items with fist Crosses midline Uses thumb while grasping Grasps with both hands
6 months	Immature raking of small pellet Transfers objects hand to hand	Bangs with toys Grasps feet
7 months	Radial palmer grasp with cube Rakes a pellet into the palm Pulls peg out	Makes shaking motion Holds two objects Bangs objects on table
8 months	Holds an object in each hand Holds pellet between thumb & curled index finger	
9 months	Radial digital grasp with cube (between tips of fingers and thumb) Inferior pincer grasp with pellet	Handling of objects Releases objects into air Rotates the wrist Throws toys appropriately
10 months	Isolates fingers and pokes Clumsy release of cube into box Pincer grasp (thumb & index finger)	Picks up objects within reach Pulls heavy objects Bangs objects together
12 months	Neat pincer grasp Stacks two blocks Precise release of cube into box Clumsy release of pellet into bottle	
14 months	Stacks with three blocks	Holds crayon
16 months	Scribbles Precise release of pellet into bottle	Stacks Puts objects inside one another Building with objects

