Pencil Grasp

Children’s pencil grasp typically follows a developmental progression, from least mature to most mature. Research has shown that changes in grasp can continue until the child is approximately 10.5 years of age. The following is a development of pencil grasp created by Schneck and Henderson.

(a) radial cross palmar grasp
(b) palmar supinate grasp
(c) digital pronate grasp, only finger extended (*age child should use: 26 to 36 months*)
(d) brush grasp
(e) grasp with extended fingers
(f) cross thumb grasp
(g) static tripod grasp (*age child should use: 42 months*)
(h) four fingers grasp
(i) lateral tripod grasp
(j) dynamic tripod grasp (*age child should use: 50 months*)

It is important to note that although a child may not be using a tripod grasp, the grasp they are using may be just as functional and efficient.

References