



## Home Strategies: Pencil Grips

**Homemade crayons** - put cupcake papers inside mini-cupcake pans. Then put crayons broken into small pieces into the papers (make the crayons about a 1/2" thick). Then warm in the oven at 170 degrees or less until they melt. Stir with a toothpick as needed. The crayons can be cut in half to make half circles, which work really well.

**Make a Dowel Crayon Holder** - Using a 5-inch long, 1-1/4 inch in diameter dowel, drill a hole to match the crayon about 1-1/2 inches from one end. When the crayon is inserted, it sticks up perpendicular from the dowel and can be secured with a rubber band wrapped around it and the dowel.

**Fabricate the grips with Sculpey Clay** - it hardens with baking in the oven. It is available in craft areas and is commonly used to make jewelry. Put a cylinder foam pencil grip on the pencil and form the clay around the foam grip, in the shape of an enlarged "The Pencil Grip," modeling the clay to fit the child's hand. Take out the foam grip and bake according to package directions, turning it over one time in the middle of the baking. The foam grip will hold the Sculpey Grip in place, but it tends to wear out with use, so replace these as needed. Some therapists have also used Crayola Model Magic to fabricate grips from.