

This book follows a child who explores the possibilities of what our hands can create beyond just pencil and paper. It showcases different fine motor actions that can be used to make different creations.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

MOVE



Children will:

- ◆ Observe simple hand-eye tasks
- ◆ Observe using a pincer grip to hold and manipulate tools

Teachers will:

- ◆ Narrate or label the use of fine motor skills

TEACHING TIP

By supporting children's small muscle control, we are supporting their ability to manipulate, experiment with, and actively participate in the world around them. This is especially important to support preschoolers' autonomy in carrying out their own plans which require fine motor skills. Everything from gripping a pencil to write, to molding playdough, to finger-play songs rely on children's fine motor skills. When we allow them to try things out on their own, we are supporting children's ability to accomplish their ideas and tasks.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ "Hold up your hands, show me your fingers! Wiggle them all around! Today we are going to read *What If...* and find out some new things we can do with our hands. We're going to see how we can be creative and think about what else we can do using fingers and hands."

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to narrate the character's actions, or the children's if they choose to imitate the illustrations.
- ◆ Point out the character's creative ideas and what else they could accomplish with fine motor movements.

Narrate or Label Use of Fine Motor Skills

Read: "...Create many stories from my heart"

Narrate: "This child is holding a pencil between their thumb and fingers. You might need to hold a tool like that to write or draw something. You can also hold a paintbrush, a fork, or chalk like that."

Read: "I could still sculpt the snow"

Narrate: "The child built a snowman and an igloo with their hands. To build that you need to sculpt with your hands (*model sculpting something round in between your hands*). And you might want to draw a face on the snowman (*model drawing in the air with your finger*)."

Read: "As long as I live..."

Narrate: "Each person in the window is doing something different with their hands. I see one person squeezing a bag of icing with both hands, one person is using one hand to hold a bow and the other hand to hold up the instrument, and the main character is holding a pencil."

3. REVIEW

- ◆ "The child found many different ways to use their hands and fingers. We can be creative with how we use our hands too. Our hands help us make our projects happen!"

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Find ways to encourage children to try out new fine motor skills throughout the day by encouraging challenges and independence. For example, if a child is drawing in the Art Center, encourage them to try to mold their drawing into a playdough version. Or, during Outdoor Time, encourage children to add new elements to their creations, like when making sandcastles or digging in the dirt.