**Tips for teaching your child the proper pencil grip**

1. Use a golf pencil. Golf pencils are typically half the length of standard pencils so they are lighter and easier for a small hand to manipulate than the average pencil.
2. Demonstrate the proper pencil grip for your child before handing him the pencil, saying aloud where you are placing your fingers. Then show your child how you are able to easily control the pencil with that grip.
3. Place the pencil into your child’s hand and position his fingers on the pencil. First have him pinch the pencil with his thumb and index finger approximately half an inch above the point.  Then have him “rest” the pencil on his middle finger.
4. Direct your child to rest the side of his hand closest to his pinky on the paper and move the pencil with only his thumb and index finger. Show him how to use his non-dominant hand (the one without the pencil) to hold the paper steady while his dominant hand (the one with the pencil) moves the pencil.