



Spring has finally sprung and we are enjoying the additional outdoor time that warmer weather affords! We will wrap up end-of-year assessments this month and you'll receive a follow-up progress report by early May. April 22nd we will have a combined class with everyone who is able to come from 10-12....so fun! Remember that there will be no school the remainder of that week.



## WHY WE PLAY

## • • • For Fine Motor • • •

Fine motor skills are the small movements, primarily of the fingers, hands, and wrist (though the term also includes small movements of the feet, toes, lips, and tongue as well). Think of all the ways your child uses – and will use – those little fingers. Grasping a pencil is just one task among many. Playing instruments, wielding tools, creating art, playing sports, even scratching an itch relies on their fingers and hands becoming strong, coordinated, and adept.





There is growing concern that a lack of hands-on play — something beyond swiping and tapping — is causing young children to struggle with fine motor tasks. From elementary schools, where demand for occupational therapists is on the rise, all the way to professors of surgery,





who are finding that many potential surgeons lack the dexterity required to make precise incisions or stitches, all fingers point to a lack of hands-on engagement, beginning in the early years. Children need — and are in fact, naturally driven to — develop control over their hands and fingers. They WANT to use them.

So how do we give kids the fine motor experiences they need? Well, in short, let them get hands-on with the world. So how do we give kids the fine motor experiences they need? Well, in short, let them get hands-on with the world.

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