

Helping Hands Fine Motor Tool Set™



Gator Grabbers & Squeezy Tweezers

• COUNTING

You will need a paper plate, a marker, and a small bowl of cereal loops for this activity. Draw lines with the marker to divide the paper plate into 8 pie-shaped sections (don't worry if they aren't even). Number each section from 1 to 8. Use the Gator Grabbers to fill up each section with the correct number of cereal pieces, counting out loud simultaneously. Now, return the cereal to the bowl, counting out loud as you start each section. Older kids can count backward as they return the cereal to the bowl. Repeat this activity using the Squeezy Tweezers.

• PEAS SQUEEZE

You will need a bowl of frozen peas (frozen corn, peas and carrots, or green beans will also work), a pot, and bowl. How about helping prepare vegetables for dinner? Using the Squeezy Tweezers, take the peas from the bowl and put them into a pot. When you're done, add water and they can be cooked up for dinner! Try this again another time using the Gator Grabbers. Now that's a challenge!

• SORTING BY COLOURS

You will need colourful pom poms (or small, colourful candy) and small bowls, one for each colour. Place the pom poms on the table. Use the Gator Grabbers to sort the pom poms into the bowls by colour. Try timing yourself. Now, practice a few more times, and time yourself again. Were you

able to do it faster after practicing? Repeat this activity using the Squeezy Tweezers.

• IT'S A RACE!

You'll need 2 bowls and 10 cotton balls (or pom poms, or anything that you can pick up with the Gator Grabbers). Put the cotton balls in one bowl and place it on a table on one side of the room (start). Place the other bowl on a table on the other side of the room (finish). Race to see how quickly you can use the Gator Grabbers to move all the cotton balls from one bowl to the other! Race again, but use the Squeezy Tweezers this time. If you have 2 players, race against each other! One player uses the Gator Grabbers and the other player uses the Squeezy Tweezers. Then, switch tools and race again!

• SNACK TIME!

Use the Gator Grabbers or Squeezy Tweezers at snack time! It's a perfect way to build hand muscles and stretch out snack time. A few snacks that work well are grapes, nuts, fish-shaped crackers, blueberries, melon balls, raisins, yogurt-covered raisins, mini crackers, and mini cookies.

• COUNT AND FILL

You will need a muffin pan (or empty egg carton) and a handful of cereal loops for this activity. Use the Gator Grabbers to fill the cups with cereal. Put one cereal loop in the first cup, two in the second cup, three in the third, and so on. Make sure you count out loud as you fill each cup. Now, try doing the same activity using the Squeezy Tweezers. If you have dice handy, roll them and put that number of cereal loops in the first cup. Roll the dice again and put that number in the second cup. Repeat until all the cups are full!

Twisty Dropper

• COLOUR MIXING FUN!

You will need 6 paper cups (or glasses) and food colouring for this activity. This may be a little messy, so you may want to do this in the sink or on a rimmed cookie sheet. Fill 3 cups halfway with water. Add 3 drops of blue food colouring to one, three drops of red to another, and 3 drops of yellow to the third. These are primary colours. Primary colours are

used to make other colours. Using the Twisty Dropper, put 3 droppers full of blue water into one of the empty cups. Next, add 3 droppers full of yellow food colouring. What colour did you make? In another empty cup, mix blue and red water. Now, what colour did you make? In the third empty cup, mix red and yellow water. What colour do red and yellow make? Adding different amounts of each color will change the shade of the colour. Experiment mixing different amounts of coloured water to make light and dark colours.

• FILL IT UP!

You will need a bowl of water and a mini muffin pan (or an empty foam egg carton) for this activity. This may be a little messy, so you may want to do this on a rimmed cookie sheet. Use the Twisty Dropper to fill each muffin cup halfway with water. When you finish, use the Twisty Dropper to put the water back into the bowl.

• BATH TIME FUN!

The Twisty Dropper is perfect to use in the bathtub! Try filling up a plastic cup using the Twisty Dropper. Fill the Twisty Dropper and squirt the rubber duck! If you have a toy boat, use the Twisty Dropper to fill the boat with water. Can you fill it until it sinks?

Handy Scoopers

• BOBBING FOR BLUEBERRIES!

You will need a large bowl, a paper towel, water, and a handful of blueberries (or cereal loops) for this activity. Blueberries work better because you can eat them when you are done. Fill the bowl halfway with water. Put the blueberries into the bowl of water. Use the Handy Scoopers to scoop the blueberries, one at a time, and place them on a paper towel to dry. Remember to let the water drain out of the Handy Scoopers before you place each blueberry on the paper towel.

• GUESS HOW MANY

You will need a bowl, a cup, and 2 handfuls of water beads (or small dry pasta, pebbles, or nuts). How many water beads do you think you can pick up at one time with the Handy

Scoopers? Try it and see if you guessed correctly! Try it several more times. Did you guess correctly each time? Now, guess how many scoops it will take to fill the cup with water beads. Try it and see. Did you guess correctly?

• SAND BOX TREASURE

If you have a sand box or a sand table, bury small items (coins or small figures) in the sand and use the Handy Scoopers to find the buried treasures! How many treasures can you find in a minute? Play with a friend: one person uses the Handy Scooper and the other uses the Squezy Tweezers. See who can find the most treasures!