

Strategies for Arts/Crafts

Cutting/Glue:

- Use construction paper/cardstock (stiff paper is easier to stabilize and manipulate)
- Highlight or widen cutting line
- Wrap rubberband/ponytail holder around joint of scissor blades to SLOW down students who have a choppy open/close pattern
- Adapted scissors (ex. self-opening)
- Verbal prompts to use “baby snips, NOT alligator chomps”
- Glue stick/bottles/glitter glue tubes (find which works best for a student)
- Place a highlighted dot or highlighted line for location of glue placement
- Glue rhymes: ex. “just a dot, not a lot”

Coloring/painting:

- Colored pencils (with/without pencil grips)
- Crayons (Different styles: finger crayons, fat/triangular crayons, twistable crayons, broken crayons)
- Narrow/wide markers/short markers
- Paintbrushes (fat diameter/built-up handles)
- Raised boundaries (draw line of glue/glitter glue around boundaries of picture to be colored – let dry overnight for raised boundary to give student a tactile prompt)

Hand warm-ups:

- **Open/close fingers (fist) to wake up finger muscles**
- **Finger opposition (tap individual fingers to thumb sequentially, working on increasing speed)**
- **For individuals who have tactile defensiveness, student can rub hands together vigorously before they touch the material they are defensive to.**