

## Launching (Lesson 3) How to Hold a Pencil

### Teaching Point:

Students will learn the correct way to hold a pencil.

### Standard(s):

### Materials:

- pencils (class set)
- pom-poms or cotton balls (class set)
- chart paper for the teacher
- paper choice

### Connection: (1-3 minutes)

*“We are going to do a lot of writing in Kindergarten and today we are going to learn how to hold our pencils correctly so we can do our best writing. When we do our best writing we will be able to read our writing and so will other people.”*

### Teach (modeling):

*“I will show you how to **hold a pencil**.” Show the students how to hold the pencil without the cotton ball. *“Writers, when I **hold a pencil** I grasp it toward the tip with my thumb and pointer finger, like I am going to pinch something. Then, I rest the pencil on my middle finger. My ring finger and pinky are tucked under my middle finger. Now watch as I write on the paper.”* Write name or various lines / scribbles.*

*“Sometimes to help kids learn the correct **pencil grasp**, we use a cotton ball to help our fingers know what to do. Watch as I grip the pencil with my thumb and pointer again. Next I will rest my pencil on my middle finger. Now, I need to put my ring finger and pinky to sleep . . . they will need a cotton ball to lay their heads on.”* Model how you hold onto the cotton ball with ring finger and pinky.

### Active Engagement (guided practice):

*“Now we will get a chance to practice **holding a pencil** together.”* Pass out pencils and cotton balls. *“First we take our pillow (cotton ball) and tuck it in with our ring and pinky fingers. Next, pick up your pencil toward the tip with your thumb and pointer finger. Remember, it is like you are pinching something. Finally, rest the pencil on your middle finger.”* Circulate around the room to help students with their grasp. *“Writers, let’s practice some ‘air writing.’ **Hold your pencil** up in the air and practice writing your name or draw a quick little picture.”*

*“I have a little song to help us remember how to **hold our pencil**.”* Teach the children how to sing this song to the tune of, “Where is Thumbkin?”

