**Children's Occupational Therapy** 

## **Cross Guard Pencil Grip**



This is a ready-made soft rubber grip with a flaps/wings designed to help position the fingers and thumb correctly when holding a standard pen or pencil.

Correct positioning is important to allow the finger movement needed to form letters and reduce pain and effort when writing.

When putting the Cross Guard Pencil Grip on the pencil/pen ensure the widest end of the flaps/ wings is closest to the pencil tip.

For a right-handed child the thumb is placed on the indent marked with an 'R' with the index finger placed on the "L" indent ensure the Thumb and index finger are placed under the wings/ flaps the middle finger rests under the Cross Guard Pencil Grip the ring and little fingers curl into the palm.

For a left-handed child the thumb is placed on the indent marked with an `L', index finger on the "R" indent, middle finger resting under the Cross Guard Pencil Grip with the ring and little fingers curled into the palm.

The position of the fingers that the grip encourages may take some time for your child to get used to. This is not unusual. Please keep trying and contact your OT if your child has difficulty adjusting to it. It is likely that initially; your child will require frequent reminders on where to place his/her fingers on the grip. This grip is best used for writing and drawing activities as often as possible at both home and school.

By using the grip in this way it is hoped that the child will, in time, adopt this position of the fingers when not using the grip.

## f you require more grips you can purchase from:

www.crossboweducation.com

www.specialdirect.com

www.theconsortium.co.uk



