

# Top Tips to Support Your Child's Development

## Fine Motor Skills

**Teaching Your Child to Thread** - an important skill that underlies a number of daily living tasks including being able to fasten and unfasten buttons

1. Make sure your child is able to put rings onto a vertical post before attempting to teach threading.



2. Stick straws, wooden rods or bread sticks into a plasticine base and thread pasta tubes, cheerios or beads.



3. Make fruit kebabs on wooden skewers.



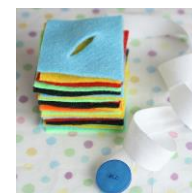
4. Start with large rigid rings and a sturdy pole when your child is first learning to thread horizontally. Curtain rings and a wooden spoon are ideal when starting out.

5. Try using a range of materials for the pole such as pipe cleaners, leather laces, bungee rope, thick string or cable ties. Your child will find a rigid material easier to thread with when they are learning.

6. Use a variety of objects to thread, gradually making them smaller and more fiddly. Initially you may need to use large items such as ribbon reels or pool noodles, moving on to pieces of straw, buttons, leaves, food items etc.



7. When your child is ready to learn to thread with a shoelace, reinforce the end of the lace by wrapping it with sellotape or fastening a small pencil onto the end to help them get started.



8. Fasten a button onto a length of ribbon. Make felt squares with a slit cut into them and thread the ribbon through the squares.