

Fine Motor Skills... Write Out of the Box!®

Crossing Midline in Handwriting Starts with Brooms and Rakes!

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Crossing midline means that the two sides of the brain are working together in activity and is first expressed through gross motor movements. Movements such as erasing the chalkboard, wiping off a table, sweeping the floor, raking leaves, or reaching across the center of the body for passing/retrieving objects are perfect, everyday activities that encourage crossing midline. Young children are one step closer to forming shapes, symbols, and letters such as a plus sign (+), x, N, and t when they use their hands and arms across the body in functional, gross motor activities. Gross motor development supports the fine motor development of young children!

Two wonderful crossing midline activities mentioned above are sweeping the floor and raking leaves - children love to be big helpers! But please remember, the perfectly swept floor or impeccable pile of leaves is not the goal when young children sweep and rake. Rather, it is understanding that the physical process of crossing midline activities facilitates high-level brain development needed for performing the skill of handwriting!

Promote Crossing the Midline...Write Out of the Box!

Please visit www.writeoutofthebox.com for more information about how to develop fine motor skills in young children.