

Progress Note

Grasp of the Pellet

Activity

Finger feeding

Response

With his left hand, Patrick continues at times to use the scissors grasp (object held between thumb and side of curled index finger), but has also learned to use the pincer grasp (object held between distal pads of index finger and opposed thumb) to pick up a raisin precisely, and transport it to his mouth easily.

With his right hand, he still uses an inferior-scissors grasp (object raked into palm with flexed fingers). Patrick's attempts to use his thumb are compromised by subluxation of the proximal joint and hyperextension of the distal joint. Upon effort, wrist flexion increases.



Inferior-scissors Grasp



Scissors Grasp



Pincer Grasp

Recommendations

No intervention is needed for the left hand pellet grasp.

Many activities of daily living, such as feeding, dressing, and community skills, require precise grasps of very small or thin objects, such as food pellets, buttons, and coins. These hand skills are dependent upon the use of appropriate points of stability for controlled mobility in all finger joints.

Certain developmental skills, such as the scissors grasp, emerge early but are available throughout life for efficient function, especially when precision and power are needed concurrently for tasks such as peeling labels. The scissors grasp is not only useful for those kind of tasks, but it also provides more stability for individuals such as Patrick, whose difficulty regulating muscle tone and grading movement can interfere with precise control. The scissors grasp is developmentally and functionally appropriate for his right hand at this time.

To learn this grasp, Patrick's right forearm and hand should rest on the surface with a raisin placed against the side of his curled index finger. His extended thumb should grasp the raisin by actively sliding along the surface, which supports and guides the digit in appropriate alignment.