Fine Motor: Tracing Lines

Student will learn to use a crayon, marker, or thick pencil to trace lines.

⚙ Suggested Materials

✴ Worksheets with dotted lines—available in the Blackline Masters section of the Language Builder ARIS Manual.

✴ Writing instruments appropriate to the student's ability, such as crayons, markers, or thick pencils.

📖 Notes

Student:

Projected activities for: ___ / ___ / ___ to ___ / ___ / ___

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

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Fine Motor: Tracing Lines

◎ Lesson Focus

Student will learn to use a crayon, marker, or thick pencil to trace lines.

🗀 Lesson Format

The primary lesson is designed for 1:1 instruction with a teacher or therapist.

◉ Location

This lesson is intended as an indoor, classroom setup activity in which the teacher and student are seated across from each other at a table.

✍ Preparation

Find a writing tool (crayon, marker, or pencil) and worksheet with dotted shapes. You can make copies of the *Thick Dashed Lines Worksheet* which is provided in the Language Builder ARIS Manual.

📋 Procedures

Before starting this lesson, students should be able to use tripod grasp with their dominant hand.

1. Sit in a chair at the table facing the student.
2. Make sure you have the student's attention.
3. Place the *Thick Dashed Lines Worksheet* in front of the student.
4. Give the instruction: "Trace the line."
5. Prompt if necessary.
6. Wait for the student to pick up the writing tool and trace the line on the worksheet.
7. Reinforce the student.

☑ Prerequisites

Tracing Lines is an intermediate activity. The prerequisite for this lesson is:

* ★ **Lesson 47:** *Holding Crayon & Scribbling*

★ Standards

Head Start
* ★ P-PMP 3

Common Core
* ★ N/A

ABLLS-R
* ★ S3

VB MAPP
* ★ W12

🖥 Record Keeping

Data Sheet
* ★ *Skills-Based Lessons*

Home Communication Sheet
* ★ *Emerging & Maintaining Skills*

Teacher Tip

Ensure the student is using their fingers, and not the entire arm, when using tripod grasp. The tripod grasp is considered most effective since it allows the most finger movement and control of the writing tool.

🎵 Lesson Progression

- By now, the student has mastered holding a crayon and scribbling. When starting this lesson, be sure to require from them the level of grip and pressure for which they are capable of while scribbling.
- Offer straight vertical lines as the first line-tracing stimulus. It is easiest for the student to begin at the top of a vertical line and pull the writing implement toward them.
  - » Start with thick dashed lines, with only one line on the page.
  - » Move to thick dashed lines with multiple lines on the page.
  - » Once the student can trace thick dashed lines, move to thinner dashed lines.
  - » As the student's line-tracing ability gets better, introduce dotted lines.
- As the student demonstrates success with vertical lines, begin to offer different line angles, from diagonal to horizontal.
- When the student can trace multiple angles of a line, introduce curved lines or zigzag patterns.

⊕ Generalization

Once the student has mastered tracing lines:

- Have the student practice tracing lines with other staff members and in various settings.
- Move away from a straight line and have the student practice tracing zigzags, curves, waves, and other variations of tracing requirements.
- Integrate line-tracing into free time, art lessons, and other appropriate classroom activities. It's ok if the rest of the class is doing a more elaborate art project. If the student is experiencing success tracing, this is a good activity for them to do during art time.
- Communicate progress, commands used, and successful prompts to parents and home staff using the *Emerging & Maintaining Skills Home Communication Sheet,* so parents can work with the student on tracing lines at home or in other environments outside of school.

◎ Whole-Child Lesson Ideas

Starry Night

This activity will help the student combine newly gained tracing skills to create this work of art. Get a large sheet of construction or drawing paper. Lightly draw intersecting lines to form asterisk shapes across the top of the page. These will form a night sky. If the student has mastered tracing curved lines, you can include a crescent moon. Below, include fir trees by drawing leaning slanted lines (//////\\\\\\). If you want to practice wavy lines, underneath the stars you can draw waves for an ocean scene. Encourage the student to use different colors and/or different drawing implements.

🗨 Prompting

Suggested prompt ideas, in general from least to most invasive:

1. Place only the worksheet and writing tool on the table.
2. Glance toward the writing tool and repeat instruction.
3. Hand the writing instrument to the student and repeat instruction.
4. Draw a big dot at the beginning of the line, perhaps in color, to indicate to the student where to place the writing tool to start.
5. Point to start of the line to trace and repeat instruction.
6. Place the student's hand with the writing instrument at the start of the shape to trace.
7. Use non-verbal imitation by modeling the use of tripod grasp and tracing the shape.
8. Hand over hand trace the shape with the student.

➡ Next Steps

Once the student can trace lines, move on to:

- ★ **Lesson 49:** *Shape Tracing*

Skills-Based Lessons
DATA SHEET

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STAGES learning materials

LESSON NUMBER _LESSON TITLE_

STUDENT'S NAME _DATE_

Prompt Codes				Notes
V	Verbal	**P**	Physical	
PV	Partial Verbal	**PP**	Partial Physical	
M	Model	**G**	Glance	
PM	Partial Model	**L**	Location	

Command:

Desired Response:

Circle + (correct), - (incorrect), NR (no response), or P (prompted) and fill in Prompt Code.

Date: _____ Staff Initials: _____ Notes:
Time Started: _____
Time Finished: _____ % Correct: _____

Trial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Response	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P
Prompt Code										

Date: _____ Staff Initials: _____ Notes:
Time Started: _____
Time Finished: _____ % Correct: _____

Trial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Response	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P
Prompt Code										

Date: _____ Staff Initials: _____ Notes:
Time Started: _____
Time Finished: _____ % Correct: _____

Trial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Response	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P
Prompt Code										

Date: _____ Staff Initials: _____ Notes:
Time Started: _____
Time Finished: _____ % Correct: _____

Trial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Response	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P	+ — NR P
Prompt Code										