Build your own resource kit

As an art teacher, you may step into classrooms where some students need adaptive tools in order to enjoy success. You can support those students by having a collection of adapted art resources on hand. This guide covers a cross section of tools and media to address issues that often arise. From this starting point, the teacher can assess what other supports may be needed to help all students create art as independently as possible.
Tools to bring essential art actions within reach

Create an adapted art toolbox from this curated assortment of materials focused on key actions such as gripping, cutting, adhering, drawing, painting, and establishing a usable work surface. You can also bring other tools into play as specific student needs are identified. By working with the special needs teacher, you can discover supports that are already proving successful in other academic classrooms. Another effective strategy is to invite your school's occupational therapist into the artroom to support students' access to the art.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>ADVANTAGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eazyhold Therapist Pack&lt;br&gt;Item #2092998</td>
<td>Universal grips for most art tools across media. Ideal to quickly adapt everyday art supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abilitations® Egg-Oh! Handwriting Grips, Set of 3&lt;br&gt;Item #1322341</td>
<td>Soft grip tool for pencils, colored pencils, thin markers or paintbrushes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abilitations® SlantScript™ BigBoard&lt;br&gt;Item #026558</td>
<td>Slanted clipboard that brings the work surface to the student and diffuses direct light on paper surfaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masking Tape</td>
<td>Multi-purpose material for securing grip, tacking artwork down, setting boundaries, or creating art</td>
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<tr>
<td>PETA Mini Easi-Grip® Scissors, Stainless Steel Blade, Maroon/Red&lt;br&gt;Item #1487615</td>
<td>Ideal scissors for early childhood through high school; small, easy to control, small blades, yet sharp enough for effective cutting</td>
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<tr>
<td>PETA Easi-Grip® Kids Scissor, 7 in&lt;br&gt;Right-Handed Blue Item #1487809&lt;br&gt;Left-Handed Green Item #1487810</td>
<td>Easier for hand-over-hand (HOH) assist and for larger-handed students, either right- or left-handed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maped® Spring Assist Scissors 5&quot;, Set of 12&lt;br&gt;Item #1359308</td>
<td>Adjustable and adaptable, fun looking, and motivating, these scissors convert from regular to adapted with the turn of a flipper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elmer's® Washable School Glue Stick, Disappearing Purple&lt;br&gt;Item #0263136</td>
<td>Easy-to-grip large size and disappearing purple help kids see where they are applying glue</td>
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**PRODUCT**

**Do-A-Dot Art® Markers Reg, Set of 6**
Item #419455

**Lyra® COLOR-GIANTS® Hexagonal Colored Pencils, Assorted Colors, Set of 12**
Item #1379823

**Kwik Stix™ Solid Tempera Paints, Original Size, Assorted Colors, Set of 6**
Item #1546619

**Crayola® Anti-Roll Triangular Crayons, Set of 16**
Item #1890486

**Crayola® Jumbo Washable Watercolors, 4 Colors**
Item #008683

**Royal & Langnickel® Big Kid's Choice™ Dippers Nylon Brush, Set of 3**
Item #1440167

**Royal & Langnickel® Aqua-Flo™ Watercolor Brushes, Set of 3**
Item #402428

**Jack Richeson™ Large Tempera Cakes with Tray, Set of 6**
Item #384125

**ADVANTAGES**

Sponge-tipped paint marker set makes no-mess artwork easy for all ages

Giant pencils with a hexagonal shape are long-lasting, resist breakage, and apply rich color

Mess-free paint stick or drawing media can be used with a brush and water if done in a timely manner; dries within 90 seconds

Large, strong triangular crayons promote proper grip and are ideal for texture rubbings when peeled

Large oversized pots of color are easy to see and access. Set of just four colors blends well and eases the overstimulation of choice

Thick acrylic handles with comfort grips help prevent slippage and increase control for small hands

Brush contains water reservoir; minimizing frustration for students who need support to sequence water-paint-paper

Easy-to-use large paint cakes can minimize liquid tempera spills and prevent overapplication

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**When to use adapted tools**

The key is to find what traditional tools the student can use as-is, and which require adapted supports. Start with the assumption that the student can use the art tool as independently as possible, and hand them the tool. If their challenges limit their ability to hold and use the tool, there are many strategies to consider. Don't assume the student will need all their art tools adapted, as students can find amazing ways to hold and manipulate art tools—they may have already figured out for themselves how to adapt, and your mission is to support them.

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