

## Low Tech Options for Managing Math Tools

There are a number of strategies and tool alternatives that can help students who struggle manipulating standard math tools to more successfully access these activities. A few options to consider are listed below but school-based occupational therapists can provide more specific input for which ideas may work best for individual students.

### Optional Tools for Purchase

Many office stores have different types of tools that may work better for students with physical manipulation challenges. For example, “pinch” or “finger grip” rulers are readily available can provide much better control for some students. Also, companies such as Fiskars ([www.fiskars.com](http://www.fiskars.com)) and Good Grips ([www.oxo.com](http://www.oxo.com)) offer a variety of tool options that may make manipulating tools easier.

[www.oxo.com](http://www.oxo.com)



### Magnetic Tools for Managing Paper and Tools

Simple, low-cost materials can be found at many office and home stores to create magnetic math tools.

1. Get a stainless steel ruler or protractor.

[www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com)

Fiskars® Stainless Steel Ruler, 15"/38cm

Item # 321992

Overall Customer Rating:

Not Yet Rated

Your Price

\$4.99

each

Qty

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Stainless Steel Protractor & 10cm Ruler



[www.uxcell.com](http://www.uxcell.com)

2. Get a magnetic register or vent cover from a home store (e.g. Home Depot)



[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

MVCX512 Magnetic Vent Covers (5

Other products by [DEFLECTO](#)

★★★★★ (3 customer reviews) | [More about thi](#)

List Price: \$16.34

Price: \$7.42

Sale: \$5.16

3. If the ruler or protractor has cork backing, remove a portion of the backing with utility knife so that the ruler is attracted to the magnetic sheet cover.



4. Place the paper between the magnetic side of the register/vent cover and the steel ruler or protractor. This will hold the paper and ruler in place so that the student does not need to coordinate two hands to hold the rule and draw with the pencil.



Cabinet liner can be placed between the magnetic cover and the table to keep it from slipping. The magnetic register cover can be cut to small size and place under pages of a book to use the ruler as a magnetic line guide to support visual tracking.