



# THE GRASP REFLEX



## Palmar grasp

- A primitive reflex (present at birth).
- Usually disappears by six months of age.
- It is characterized by a fully awake infant folding their fingers and clinging to the examiner's pen, probe, or fingers when their palm is stroked.
- The thumb is not involved in this grasp.



## Radial palmar grasp

- Develops at around six to eight months of age.
- The held object is supported by fingers on the top and the thumb on the side.



## Raking

- Develops at around ten months of age.
- Also known as the premature pincer grasp.
- Characterized by the sweeping motion of all fingers to pick up an object.



## Inferior pincer grasp

- Develops between 10 to 12 months.
- The baby uses pads of the index finger and the thumb to grab things.



## Superior pincer grasp

- Develops at around 12 months of age.
- The baby can use their index finger and thumb to pick an object with a better grip.
- With a developed pincer grasp, the baby can begin self-feeding.



### REFERENCES:

1. Palmar Grasp Reflex; National Library of Medicine
2. Grasp Patterns and Fine Motor Development; Expressive Connection