

## TAPED FINGERS

### Objective

This activity is designed to allow students to experience a fine motor impairment such as found with cerebral palsy.

### Materials

- Masking tape
- 3 or 4 shoes with laces
- 3 or 4 pencils
- Paper
- 3 or 4 men's shirts with buttons

FOR OLDER STUDENTS: (4<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> Grade)

- Gift boxes (10 to 15)
- Scotch tape (8 to 10 rolls)
- Scissors (one for each student, preferably school scissors for safety)
- Wrapping paper (butcher paper works well)

### Activity

1. Have all materials set up on a table.
2. Wrap each participant's thumb to their first two fingers with masking tape, thus limiting the use of his/her hands. (Wrap the hand they write with.)
3. Have the students take turns lacing or tying the shoes, putting on a shirt and buttoning it, picking up a pencil and writing their name, or have them attempt to wrap a present. (The last activity is best for older students as it is too frustrating for the younger students who may find it difficult to wrap a present without tape on their fingers. Students may wrap presents in pairs so that they can cooperate.)

### Discussion

While students are attempting this task, talk to them about what it might be like to get up in the morning and get ready for school if they couldn't move their hands very well. Would they have to get up earlier? Maybe adapt some things?

Explain to the students that for many people with cerebral palsy, this is what it might be like to do everyday tasks.

\* Adapted from Special Pastoral Ministries, Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, 1982, *Welcome to My World*

