

## The Physical and Occupational Therapy Education Project

## How to Avoid Pressure on Nerves in Your Hand

## 1. Positions to Avoid:

- a. Avoid activities or resting positions that keep the wrist bent for periods of time; maintain the wrist in a straight or slightly extended position.
- b. Avoid keeping the hand bent towards the little finger for long periods of time; the wrist tends to go this direction when bent.
- c. Supinating the forearm (palm up position) creates more pressure in the carpal tunnel, as in twisting your hand up under your pillow at night or holding a cell phone in one hand.
- d. Leaning on your elbows or keeping them bent 90 degrees or more for periods of time irritates the "funny bone" (ulnar nerve at the elbow).

## 2. Activities to Avoid:

- a. Avoid using your hand as a hammer with pressure over the carpal tunnel.
- b. Avoid wearing a tight watch or bracelet; be careful of rolling up your sleeves to create a band effect on the arm.
- c. Avoid activities that require sustained gripping, especially with vibration, as in mowing the lawn with a push mower.













Avoid these positions and activities when able!