

Scissor Skills

Holding the Scissors

The optimum position to hold scissors is with the middle finger and thumb in the scissor loops stabilising the lower loop with the index finger. The loops should rest near the bent middle joint of his fingers.



Encourage the child to hold the paper in their non-dominant hand and use his dominant hand to operate the scissors. Both hands should have thumbs 'on top' rather than underneath the paper. When cutting, the scissors should move away from the child's body, rather than across it.

Cutting Skills - Children first learn to snip, then to make a series of continuous snips in order to cut across a page. Straight lines are easiest to start with, then corners and finally curved lines.

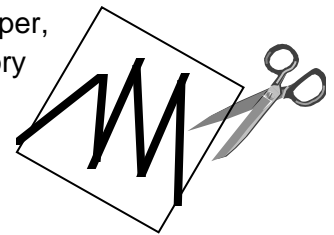
Snipping Activities

- Practice opening and shutting the scissors (without paper)
- Cutting Playdough sausages into small pieces.
- Making a fringed effect for puppets.
- Cutting strips of paper into small pieces for papier-mâché
- Cutting different materials e.g. foil, cellophane, magazines etc for collage work.
- Cutting drinking straws into small pieces, which can then be used for threading and making a necklace.



Cutting Lines

- Draw a line with pictures at either end e.g. cat and mouse, letter and a post box, dog and bone etc ask the child to cut along the line to reach the picture at the other end.
- Use different materials that give more resistance, such as cardboard, sandpaper, textured card, these will can make it easier and the student more sensory feedback.
- Cut out felt, ie to make an animal, an Indian with fringed headgear and feathers etc
- Use magazines to cut out pictures



Dot-to-dot

- Punch a line with single hole punch or make a line using sticker spots and ask the child to cut along the dots. These lines can be straight or curved or make a shape
- Cut in straight lines across, curved lines, zig zag, circle
- Reducing the scale of the drawing makes it harder.

Chinese Lanterns

- Fold a piece of paper in half long-ways and ask the child to cut along pre-drawn lines along the folded edge. Unfold the paper and glue along the short edges to form a lantern. Cut a strip of paper and glue to the inside to make a handle

Jigsaw Making

- Using the picture of an animal or the student, draw lines over the picture and ask the student to cut long the lines to make their own jigsaw.
- Increase the complexity by adding curved lines. The greater the number of pieces, or the more detailed the picture, the harder it will be to put back together. A second copy can be useful to add as a guide.

Snowflakes

- Fold a square or circle several times and ask the student to cut out shapes along the edges and open out to make a snowflake to stick on the window.