

Effective Teaching of Scissor Skills

The Scissor Grasp

Things to remember when practicing scissor skills:

- Child's thumb should be through the top smaller hole while the index and middle finger should be through the larger bottom hole
- Encourage your child to use their scissor free hand to hold the paper. Ensure they hold the paper along the side or bottom
- Encourage your child to turn the paper if they are cutting out a shape and to always keep the scissors pointing straight ahead
- The open/close action of cutting should be smooth and coordinated, encourage your child to slow down if their movement seems uncontrolled.

Cutting Skills - Progression

- Begin with snipping paper, making a fringe or "hair"
- Consecutive snips where the child must use two or three snips to get across the paper (start with narrow strips of paper and gradually increase the width of the strip)
- Cutting on thick lines, moving towards thin lines. You can also punch holes along the line to assist with cutting across the paper
- Curved lines (see picture); wavy lines; then circles
- Squares, rectangles, triangles - emphasize lines and corners
- More complex designs
- Thicker paper (eg// construction paper) is a bit easier to cut than thin paper. If you find your child is having difficulty try cutting lines along index cards or old birthday cards.

