

Pre-Scissor Skills

Cutting skills take time for children to develop. Games that do not need scissors can help to develop the correct hand grip and to be able to use both left and right hands together in a co-ordinated, efficient manner. Your child needs to be able to isolate the movements of the thumb, middle and index fingers before they can use scissors. They also need to be able to flex (bend) and extend (stretch) these fingers separately as well as in a co-ordinated fashion to manipulate the scissors.

Strategies to try:

- Make sure your child can use their hands together well first, start with tearing paper and making picture collages with all the torn bits or just enjoy scrunching them up and tossing them into a bin.
- Use little and big tongs at snack time to choose their fruit, vegetable strips, crackers and sweets.
- Play games with clothes pegs to develop the scissor action and finer hand control.



■ Tear up tissue paper and thin magazine pages.

■ Use easy to open and close big kitchen tongs at snack times to choose the snacks and put on their own plate .

■ Use smaller tea bag tongs and play tongs to pick up pompoms, dried pasta and small beads to fill up a pot or ice cube tray.

■ Peg easy to open plastic clothes pegs onto a stable tub or cardboard box

■ Peg colourful clothes pegs onto a plastic plate or paper plate

■ Laminate pictures onto a plate sized circle and stick matching pictures onto pegs for the child to picture match. This mimics the action of scissors and paper.

■ Try hanging pegs onto a washing line, this is tricky as nothing is stable.

■ Its time to start playing with scissors and play dough or thin strips, to snip in one go

