

Scissor Skills

Strategies to try:

- Ensure your child is using appropriate scissors, e.g. left or right hand scissors, appropriately sharp.
- Encourage good sitting posture so they can use their arms and hands freely.
- If they turn the scissors upside down, try a sticker on their thumb or a sheet of paper between their arm and body to encourage correct position.
- Practise cutting out from shop catalogues, junk mail, magazines, Christmas / birthday cards to make a collage.
- Practise cutting out different types and textures of material, e.g. card, paper and fabrics.
- Encourage children to cut out drawings / pages from their colouring books. Don't worry initially about following the lines as they can move towards cutting round the shapes as their skills progress.
- If needed there are alternative/adapted scissors to assist with grip and opening and closing the scissors.

Cutting skills take time for children to develop. Using scissors is a common school activity. 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.



- Opening and closing scissors to cut up play dough.
- Opening and closing scissors to make snips on paper.
- Cutting across thin strips of card or straws.
- Cut across different sized paper without having to follow a line, starting small and getting wider.
- Cutting along a straight line (adult holding the page, if required).
- Cutting along a straight line using 1 hand to hold the scissors and their other hand to hold the paper.
- Cutting along a wavy line, spiral or circle.
- Cutting zigzag lines or square shapes.
- Participating in more complex, multi-directional cutting out activities.

