



SCISSOR SKILLS



Pre - Scissor skills

The following activities will help children to practice and develop opening and closing the hands.

- Use salad tongs to pick up small items and toys
- Use tweezers to pick up small dried peas/beans, sweets or dried fruit
- Use a turkey baster to play blow football
- Use a jiff lemon/washing up liquid bottle to squirt water.

The following activities will help to develop bilateral skills.

- Tearing paper for collages
- Lacing/ threading sewing cards
- Sticking and gluing
- Building with large lego / duplo

Scissor Skills

- Provide appropriate size scissors for the child and also provide appropriate Right/Left scissors with a good cutting action.
- Encourage the child to hold their elbow into their side for improved control.
- Ensure that the child is seated correctly on the right size chair with their feet on the floor and the table at elbow level.

Practice cutting in stages:

- Cut a sheet of paper randomly. (snipping)
- Cut between 2 wide lines.
- Cut between 2 lolly sticks glued 2cm apart.
- Cut along a thick straight line on the edge of the paper. As the child progresses then reduce the thickness of the line. If staying on the line is difficult then use a line of punched holes for the child to cut along.
- Cut along a straight line in the centre of the paper. Encourage the child to cut away excess paper first and then cut along the line.

Scissor Skills

- Cut out simple geometric shapes such as squares and triangles. Draw the shape using a thick line and gradually reduce the line as cutting becomes more accurate. Again Encourage the child to plan their approach by cutting off excess paper first and cutting beyond a corner before turning the paper. Also prompt the child to handle and turn the paper rather than turning their arms and body into an awkward posture.
- Practice cutting out pictures and old birthday and Christmas cards or old catalogues.
- Cut out toys etc from argos catalogues.
- Draw lines (straight or wiggly) for your child to cut along.