

LEARNING HOW TO USE SCISSORS

- Before holding scissors the child must be able to move their thumb, index and middle finger independently – bending and straightening
- Correct hold to give control over scissors – thumb and middle fingers in loops and index finger stabilises just above middle finger loop on outside
- Start by learning how to open and close without paper. Can stick a set of paper teeth on ‘jaws’ for fun
- Make random snips on paper / thin card e.g. greetings cards
- Snip with a forward movement
- Cut across 1centimetre strips of paper, progressing to 5cm, 10cm
- Once able to cut across paper start cutting along the paper within 10cm thick line then gradually reduce width
- Cut a straight line on thick marker pen liner
- Cut thick lines with 1 angle / directional change in them
- Cut thick lines with more than 1 angle / directional change in them
- Cut out simple geometric shapes consisting of straight lines
- Progress to curved lines, eg: semicircle, circle
- Gradually develop skill by cutting out more complex shapes comprising of curved and straight lines

Types of Scissors

- Safety scissors
- Right and left handed safety scissors
- Easigrip
- Trainer

Games to promote eye-hand co-ordination before using scissors:

- Opening and closing tools eg: tongs – pick up different objects.
- Squeezing – turkey baster, make bubbles in a bowl.
- Squirt guns with trigger.
- Stick coloured paper in lines – direct scissors to each shape.
- Paper chains.