

## Cutting

Cutting requires multiple different skills including fine motor strength, bilateral coordination, motor planning and hand eye coordination. This means using scissors is a complex task that requires lots of practice!

Children's scissor cutting skills progress from opening and shutting scissors, snipping, cutting a straight line, cutting a curved line, cutting out shapes and then cutting simple pictures.



### STRATEGIES

- Support fine motor skills through different activities such as tweezers, play dough, tearing paper, pegs, spray bottles and using tongs.
- Trial using spring loaded scissors to start.
- Support child to hold scissors with correct grasp- thumb on top, thumb facing up in top loop, with index and middle finger in bottom loop. Ensure ring and pinky finger are curled into palm.
- Try using a sticker or Texta on each of your child's thumbs to remind them to keep their thumbs positioned up. Or trial using a fun saying i.e. 'thumb facing the sun.'
- Make sure to give your child scissors that match their dominant hand.
- Ensure your child is using both hands during cutting i.e. one hand holding the paper/item and one hand in the scissors. If supporting your child to cut, try using hand-under-hand to support their hand to hold the paper, rather than holding the paper for them.
- Support your child to practice reposition their holding hand.
- Support children to cut circles in anti-clockwise direction if right-handed. Cut in clockwise direction if left-handed.
- Ensure elbows are close to body and helper hand is holding item close to scissors.
- Snipping activities – snip different coloured papers, play dough, straws, card, grass, wool, string, paper plates, herbs. These will make for lots of fun craft activities!
- Try cutting on card first, then try thinner paper.
- Use worksheets or stickers/colours dots to motivate children to cut to an end point
- Draw lines on paper for children to cut along. Practice cutting thick lines before thin.
- Make sure child is looking at where they are cutting!
- Remember to follow to development sequence for scissor skills above.
- Offer lots of different opportunities to practice cutting. Learning a new skill takes time and practice. Try to keep activities fun and exciting.

