



SCISSORS SKILLS

Why are scissors skills important?

- For successful participation in school
- As a functional tool in our daily lives (e.g. opening packages)

What skills are involved in learning how to use scissors?

- two handed coordination, where one hand is the leader and the other is a helper
- grasp and release
- hand strength
- trunk and shoulder stability
- keeping eyes focused on the task



Progression of Scissors Skills:

Tool Use	Spray bottles, water squeeze toys Tongs to pick up and release small items (i.e. blocks, cotton balls, etc.) One hole punches
Singles Snips	Start with thin strips of paper Straws Make grass, hair for lion, etc
Consecutive Snips	Increase to wider strips of paper Draw thick lines for your child to follow Long grass
Cut Along a Path	draw thick lines for your child to follow Cut out buildings (skyscrapers)
Cut Along a Curve	Start with cutting along simple curves and progress to cutting out a circle

Helpful Hints:

- Use spring loaded scissors which require the child only to squeeze, not squeeze and release
- Use a thumbs up, elbow down position with elbow tucked into side
- Place a sticker or coloured dot on the thumbnail as a visual cue to have thumbs up
- Position scissors in front of child for easy pick up with thumb up
- Tape paper on a vertical surface (such as an easel) and have the child cut a line from the bottom up
- Try a variety of material to cut such as playdoh, cardstock, licorice, construction paper

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