

Scissor/Cutting Skills

Ideal scissor position:

- Thumb through one hole and the middle finger through the other hole, and the index finger resting on the outside of the scissors.
- Positioning index finger outside the scissor loop allows more control during cutting.



Activities to Promote Use of Scissors:

1. Tearing paper – encourages bilateral hand use
 - Tear pieces of paper to create picture
 - Tear paper into correct number of pieces for math paper
2. Tong/tweezer activities
3. Use turkey baster, nasal aspirator, squirt toys, and eye droppers
4. Use individual hole punches
5. Clothespin activities
6. Wind up toys
7. In sensory tables, scoop and dump activities. Encourage scooping with one hand while holding a bucket (vary size) to dump into or dump into hand and see how much the student can “catch”. This encourages supination position.

Teach Cutting:

- Draw a smiley face on thumb nail (or use sticker) to remind student to keep thumb on top of paper. Do this on both hands, it is important for scissor hand to be positioned with thumb on top, but also for the hand managing the paper!
- Instruct student to cut “away” from body.

Practice Cutting:

1. Practice snipping variety of mediums where only 1 snip/cut is required for success: playdoh, straws, narrow strip of construction paper to make confetti, fringe end of paper to make “grass” for picture.
 - Add lines onto straws, strips of paper to build in visual reference and prepare for cutting on lines.
2. Cutting across: paint chip samples (natural built in lines separating the colors, index cards, playdoh “pancake”
3. Cutting across increasingly larger pieces of paper
4. Add lines to cut on:
 - Start with thick lines which each new cutting skill
 - Start with straight line →c-curve line→s-curve line→circle→angles (r)→square
5. Any game with “tweezers/tongs” (ie: Bed Bugs, Operation, Wok & Roll...)