

Progression of Cutting Skills

| Holds scissors | Opens/closes blades | Starts snipping paper | Snips paper moving forward | Uses helping hand | Cuts straight line | Cuts curved line | Cuts circle shape | Cuts square shape | Cuts complex shapes | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| often with both hands, learning to open and close the blades | (not ready to use them on paper yet) | not moving forward with the scissors but making small snips) | | to hold and help to guide the paper (non-dominant hand) | within 1/2 inch from the drawn line, improving in | (a 1/4inch curved line, within 1/4inch from the line drawn) | a circle of 6inch in diameter, within 1/2 from the drawn line, improving to about 1/4 | | | |
| 1-2 years | 3-4 Years | | | | 5+ Years | | | | | |
| Practice tearing paper Strengthening hands using malleable resources | Hold, move, in, out, open, shut, close, bend, Cut, snip, squeeze, stretch, fold, knead, push, pull | Open, move apart, close, shut, move in/out, fingers, thumb, together, apart, stretch, up, down | Snip, cut, hold, forward, backwards | Across, forward, backward, side to side, straight ahead | Upwards, downwards, sideways, hold still, rest your hand, hands together/apart, up and down | Straight, across, forward, open and shut, move, together/apart, follow the line, close to | Closer, on the line, next to the line, circle, curve, around, round, wobbly, wavy | Circle, oval, round, curved, wavy Move, twist, turn, pivot Small snips, at the same | Stop/start, turn, point, corner, pointed, cross | Close to the line, on the line, outline, follow the line, background |
| Encourage 'thumbs up' position. Practice opening and closing blades on malleable | Practice snipping on foam and then progress to thicker paper | Practice activities to promote crossing the mid-line of the body Eg: passing ball | Promote activities to strengthen bilateral coordination Eg: threading, stencils, clapping games | Use a piece of paper that is up to 6 inches long | | | | | | |

Progression of Cutting Skills