

Trafford Children's Therapy Service

PRIMARY SCHOOL – CUTTING WITH SCISSORS

MATERIALS

- Start with thick paper/card, as it is easier to control.
- Progress to paper and other things like string or straws once the child is able to correctly hold the scissors and material.
- Provide thin strips (2-3cm) to start with, and increase the size and shape as ability improves.

SCISSORS

- Consider using alternate scissors e.g. easi-grip, self-opening, long-loop, table-top.
- Scissors with a wider handle will make it easier initially to handle and control scissors.
- Ensure that all scissors have a blunt tip.

SCISSORS RULES

- It is important to teach children how to hold the paper and the scissors from the very start
 - The thumb goes on the top
 - The scissors point away from the body
 - Move the hand which is holding the paper, not the scissors hand
- Simple rhymes like “Fingers on the bottom, thumb on the top, OPEN up the scissors and CHOP, CHOP, CHOP!” will help children to learn where their hands should be.



TEACHING SCISSOR SKILLS

Follow the below sequence for developing scissors skills:

Scissor Action: Practice the opening and closing action of the scissors. Encourage him/her to use their preferred hand.

Simple Snipping: Practise making single snips at the edge of the paper. Ask your child to snip at string, ribbon, or straws, cutting one piece into two pieces. You may need to hold the object that is being cut.

Straight Lines: Encourage your child cut across a piece of paper until there are two pieces. Then cut along a thick line, moving to thinner lines as skills progress. Allow them to practice stopping at the end of a line. Encourage them to start to use their “other “hand to hold the paper.

Corners: Cut along a straight line to a corner. Encourage child to stop cutting, turn the page and continue cutting along the line. If a child has difficulty knowing when to change a direction, mark corners of the shapes by punching holes at these points using a hole punch or by using different colours or by sticking something textured on to draw his/her attention to these points.

Curvy Lines: Begin with a slightly wavy line, and then progress to having more waves in the line.

Solid Objects: Encourage your child to cut out a picture of a solid object (e.g. a circle or square, then a triangle or a house etc.). You can also cut thick pieces of cardboard out to make a template for cutting a line or square. The cardboard guides the scissors.

