

## Teaching Cutting Skills

### General Suggestions

These activities should be fun and interesting for the child. If he/she tends to be easily distracted, the desk or table should be clear except for the scissors and materials to be cut. Demonstrate and explain how the activity should be done before he/she starts and instructions should emphasize the need to stay on the cutting path provided.

### Suggested Materials for Cutting

Materials that are firm (eg. heavy construction paper, Christmas cards, wallpaper samples, cardboard, milk cartons, and grocery bags) are easier to cut than regular weighted paper or tissue paper.

Start with firmer material and progress to those that give less resistance and are more difficult to control when cutting.

Also, start with small pieces (eg. 4" x 6") as these are easier to manipulate, and progress to larger sizes of the material.

### Activities

1. Ask the child to touch their thumb and index finger together several times as they would do if they were cutting with a pair of scissors. Their thumb should be above the index finger.
2. Next, give the child a pair of scissors and have them continue the same thumb-index finger movement.

### Cutting on Straight Lines



1. Give the child a piece of heavy paper and have him/her cut "fringes" along the edge of the paper.
2. Draw short, thick lines (1/2" - 1") perpendicular to the edge of the paper as a guide for cutting.
3. Ask the child to snip

on each particular line drawn.

4. Ask the child to cut on wide lines across short strips of paper. As skill improves, child cuts on narrower lines across longer pieces of paper.
5. Ask the child to cut out large squares, rectangles and triangles, by cutting along shape outlines. The child progresses to smaller shapes.
6. Ask the child to cut across one side of the figure and continue in the same direction to the edge of their paper. All sides of the figure are done in the same way so that he/she is not required to cut around corners.
7. Ask the child to cut out strips, then glue them into circles to form a chain.
8. The child or teacher glues parallel craft sticks on paper; the child cuts between them. As skill improves, sticks are glued closer together, or several pairs are glued parallel to form a maze for cutting.

## Cutting on Curves

1. Draw a thick, curved line at each corner of a piece of paper. The child should practice making a smoothly curved cut, rather than a series of short, straight ones which approximate the curve. To achieve this, he/she must slowly turn the paper with one hand and keep cutting with the other hand.
2. Ask the child to cut out figures made up of curved lines, and combine straight and curved lines. For example, ovals and circle.

