

Getting Ready for Scissors

General Suggestions

These activities should be fun and interesting for the child. Pre-cutting skills include any activity that includes opening and closing the fingers and thumb and having the two hands doing different parts of an activity.

Suggested 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. Use spray bottles to wash tables or windows, water plants, paint or play in the bath
3. Opening and closing clothespins, tongs or tweezers and put them onto boards, cards, containers. Use them to pick up crumpled bits of paper, pom poms, or beads.
4. Using clothespins on a round game board means that they need to turn the board with one hand while holding the clothespin with the other – just like cutting a shape.
5. Play with squeeze bath toys or eye-droppers or turkey basters to move water.
6. Play with hand puppets where the hand can open and close the puppet's mouth.
7. Tearing pieces of paper to make crafts

Starting Cutting

1. Start with simple snips – cut straws, strips of paper, bits of playdoh
2. Start with short straight lines that are thick, and on stiff paper

