



Activities to Promote Scissor Skill

**OT/PT Newsletter:
May / June**



In this newsletter, we explain about visual motor skills. We have listed the developmental sequences of visual motor integration and also include fun activities for you to try at home.

Activities for Developing PRE-SCISSOR SKILLS



Here are activities promoting bilateral use of hands, hand strength, and isolated finger movements that are fundamental elements for scissor skill development:

- ★ Tearing and scrunching paper for papier- mache' and collage work
- ★ Using a single or double hold-punch to make holes for lacing activities
- ★ Squeezing empty plastic bottles to make bubbles in water or to blow feathers and ping-pong balls across a table
- ★ Finger or glove puppets
- ★ Hand and finger rhymes
- ★ Modeling clay or dough-rolling and pinching
- ★ Musical instruments- trumpets, castanets, finger-cymbals

What are SCISSOR SKILLS?



Scissor skills are what we need to manipulate scissors—specifically opening and closing the hand to cut paper, straws, yarn, etc. At school, scissors are used a great deal and they help us to cut out shapes and cut straws in half for different activities. At home, we use scissors to cut plants, wrapping paper, vegetables, string, etc. Scissors help us with tasks that are too hard for us to do with our bare hands.

Developmental Sequence of Scissor Skills

1. Child enjoys tearing paper during play activities.
2. Child shows an interest in and understands the use of scissors.
3. Child is able to maintain correct grip when positioned by adult.
4. Child is able to hold scissors appropriately without assistance.
5. Child begins to open and close scissors.
6. Child is able to open and close scissors cuts.
7. Child is able to hold paper and make random cuts.
8. Child is able to make consecutive cuts with a forward movement.
9. Child is able to cut straight lines avoiding unintentional lateral movement.
10. Child is able to cut out simple shapes involving one change of direction.
11. Child is able to cut out simple shapes, more than one directional change.
12. Child is able to cut along curved lines.
13. Child is able to cut out circles.
14. Child is able to cut more complicated shapes with straight and curved lines.

REFERENCES:



Developing Basic Scissor Skills by Sue Mahoney & Alison Markwell

www.theraproducts.com for adaptive scissors

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Position of Scissors



Simple Cutting Activities For Beginners

Smaller oval handles are the easiest for young children to manipulate. The middle finger and thumb should be placed into the loops only as far as the distal joints. The index finger should be held against the handle shaft to aid in closing the blades and supporting the scissors in a vertical position. Below are types of scissors used at preschool. Some provide adaptations for children with limited hand strength or/and finger control.



Loop Scissors

Lightweight, self-opening scissors with a continuous molded plastic flexible loop. Actual handle is wider than most and longer cutting blades allow for easier feeding of paper. Operate by gently squeezing, using fingers and thumb or fingers and palm. Release pressure and blades re-open automatically. Great first scissor or when strength is limited.



Benbow Scissors

Wonderfully crafted scissors designed specifically for little hands. With small, vinyl coated, finger holes, shorter overall length, and a real cutting edge, control is increased.



Self-Opening Fiskar Scissors

Unique rotating spring-clip morphs this from standard scissors into a "self opening" pair. Squeeze stainless steel blades closed by applying pressure through the finger holes or through the outside of the plastic handles. Once pressure is released the blades will open automatically. Works well for beginning cutters or for those with finger strength or mobility difficulties.

It is important to sequence materials to cut for cutting activities since it will promote confidence and interest and reduce frustration. Here are some simple activities involving scissors in a structured way:

Playdough play: have your child make a hot dog with the playdough then cut it into short pieces

Make a straw necklace: have your child cut plastic straws into pieces approximately 3cm long then thread pieces onto lace to make a necklace of the required length

Collage work: have your child randomly cut out old magazine pages or playing cards then glue the pieces onto another paper

Advanced Activities to Work on Better Control:

Make a paper chain: draw straight lines on construction paper, have your kid cut along lines to form strips then glue end of first strip to make circle, tread next strip through the circle and repeat to make chain of required length

Make a Chinese Lantern: have your child fold construction paper in half, draw straight lines that do not touch the edge of paper then have your child cut along lines, unfold paper then glue along edges to form lantern, add a handle on the top

Kite: Draw a shape of diamond then have your child cut it out, glue 2 sticks onto the shape and a string at the bottom

Butterfly: Have your child fold paper in half, draw a shape looks like number "3" on one side then have your child to cut along the line, unfold the paper and decorate with Do-A-Dot Art pens or tissue paper, secure pipe cleaner to form antennae with sticky tape

You can always draw an outline of your child's favorite cartoon character coloring worksheet the have him/her cut the figure out!