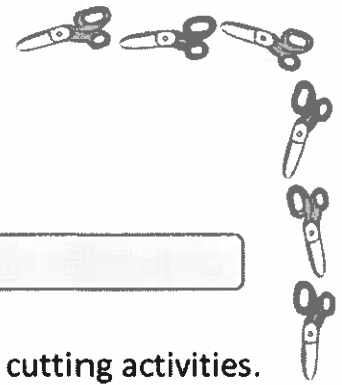


Tips for Scissors Skills



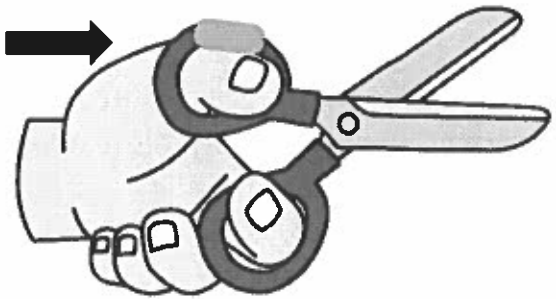
When is a Child Ready to Learn Scissors Skills?

- 1- The child is two and a half to three years old and is able to sit for these cutting activities.
- 2- The child shows interest in learning how to use scissors.
- 3- The child is able to imitate opening and closing his or her hand as needed for cutting, making a fist, then straightening the hand.
- 4- The child is able to follow simple directions well.

Occupational Therapy (OT) Hacks for Skilled Scissors Use!

Place colorful tape on the correct/ smaller scissors loop. This gives children a visual cue regarding where to put their thumb.

TAPE →



FOLDER →

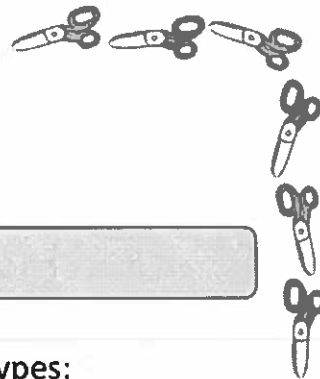


A child's elbow should stay "tucked" at his side. If he positions it out to the side when cutting, have him hold a folder under his arm. This promotes the correct elbow position. Try a small cushion if a folder is too challenging.

A child must use two hands together when cutting. If a child has trouble coordinating her hands, help out by holding whatever material she is cutting. This allows her to focus on opening and closing her hand to cut with scissors.



How to Choose Scissors?



1- Blades

Blades may be plastic as with play-doh scissors.



Blades may be metal as with Koopy or Fiskars scissors.



Plastic blades can be sharp enough to cut paper well and are unlikely to hurt a child. Metal blades may cut more efficiently and give a child more immediate positive reinforcement for cutting attempts. But these do run more risk of finger cuts.

When teaching scissors skills, the primary concern is children's safety. Close adult supervision is required at all times. Choosing between plastic versus metal is a personal choice.

2- Opening and Closing Action

Scissors may have a spring-action design. This means they will open automatically. These two pairs both have spring-action.



Other types of scissors have no spring-action and must be opened by the child. Children with weaker hands may benefit from initially using a spring-action scissors.

3- Handles

Handles may be of three types:

1- No Handles – as with Mini-Loop Scissors



2- Identical Handles – as with Benbow scissors



3- One Large/One Small – as with Fiskars

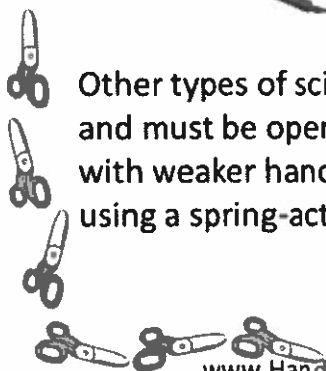


1- "No Handles" scissors use the whole hand. Kids don't worry about placing fingers and thumb correctly. These may be easier to use.

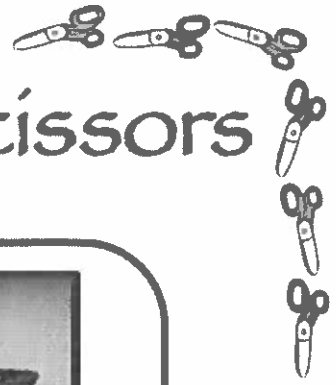
2- "Identical Handles" may be perfect for little hands and many OT's love these. But allowing only one finger in the handle may make opening and closing scissors difficult.

3- "One Large/One Small" handles allow placement of two or more fingers in the larger loop. This increases the leverage and strength a child has to close the scissors.

Scissors choice is a personal decision for both adult and child. There is no correct answer. Think about the differences between scissors and try a few pairs to help you choose!

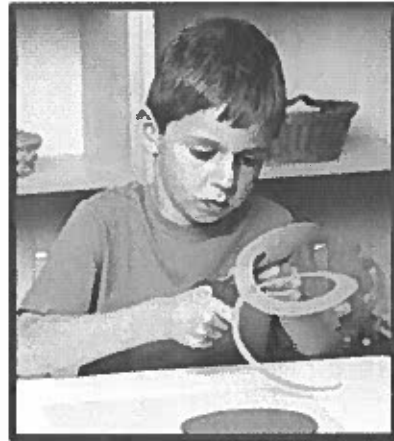


The 3 T's: Rules for Using Scissors



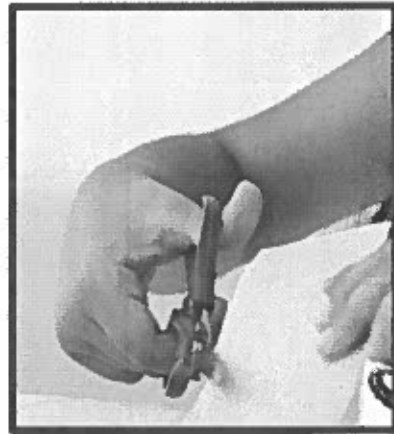
1- TUCK!

TUCK your elbow
by your side



2- TOP!

Keep your thumb
on TOP



3- TABLE!

Cut toward the TABLE
and away from you

