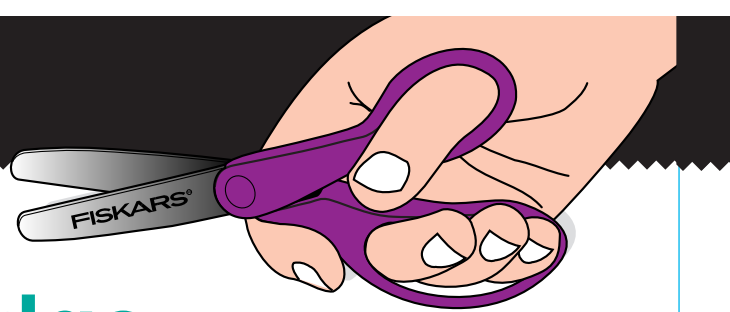


# Children on the Cutting Edge



## Teaching Children to Cut

Children should sit in a properly fitting chair with both feet on the floor. Sitting at a table helps to stabilize the child's hands and body. One hand (the holder) should hold the paper while the other hand (the driver) cuts the paper.

### 1. Thumbs Up!

Start with the hand in a thumbs up position. Place the thumb in the top (smaller) loop of the scissors' handle. Stay in this position the entire time during cutting.

### 2. Let the Pointer Finger Drive!

Wrap the pointer finger around the bottom of the scissors handle. The pointer finger will lead the way by guiding the direction of the scissors.

### 3. All Aboard with the Passenger Fingers!

Place the middle and ring fingers in the bottom loop. If the pinkie finger will fit in the bottom loop, place it there also. Otherwise, the pinkie finger should remain behind the scissors.

### 4. Let the Cutting Begin!

Open and close the scissors while slowly pushing them forward.

### Scissors Safety Tips

Scissors should be used for cutting and snipping only - they are not toys! Always supervise children whenever they are using scissors. To prevent accidents, store scissors in a safe place.

### When carrying scissors...

- Wrap fingers around closed blades with the blades pointing down. (Holding the scissors in this manner ensures that the scissors will drop to the floor instead of opening if you stumble or fall. The natural reflex when you stumble is to open your hands to brace yourself. Carrying scissors with your fingers in the handles makes it likely that, when falling, the scissors will remain in your hand, potentially causing serious injury!)

- Always walk slowly when carrying scissors.
- Remind children to watch where they are going!
- Pass scissors with fingers wrapped loosely around closed blades - handles should face person who will be taking the scissors.

### Choosing a Good Pair of Scissors

Select a pair of scissors that...

- Can be used with the left or right hand.
- Has a finger loop that allows more than one finger. This provides better comfort and control during cutting.
- Is made with a durable pivot point and corrosion-resistant blades. The angle of the grind on the cutting edge should be five percent or less.
- Is designed to cut to the tip of all required materials (e.g., felt, fabric, yarn, paper).
- Comfortably fit a child's hand.

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## Learning To Cut!

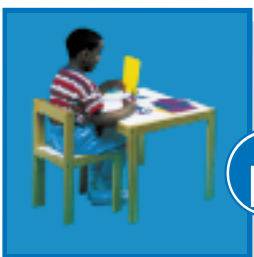
Carry safely



Passengers ride



Sit straight



Thumbs up



Pointer drives





## Developmental Cutting Activities

It is very important to find a stage of developmental cutting that provides each child with a feeling of success. In this file, you will find a reproducible sheet of cutting activities that will help build children's cutting skills. After reproducing the cutting activities, cut the copies into sections as indicated. Children learning to cut will have more success cutting these small, manageable sheets of paper. To make the paper easier to handle, use a stiffer grade of paper than 20 lb. typing paper. Following is a list of the activities you'll find in this file:

1. Scribbling
2. Cut a Line
3. Cut to a Target
4. Cut Curves
5. Cut & Change Directions
6. Cut Different Shapes

Before children begin structured cutting tasks, let them develop a feel for scissors by allowing them to do some random cutting referred to as "Scribbling". Let them snip and cut small pieces of paper (1" x 4 1/4") into smaller pieces of paper until they can no longer cut. After children are comfortable with the scissors as well as cutting, begin with the cutting activities.

## Advanced Cutters

After learning to cut regular paper, students can discover different cutting materials:

Wax Paper	Ribbon
Aluminum Foil	Paper Plates
Felt	Paper Bags
Fabric	Craft Fur
Construction Paper	Magazines

Various activities may include:

- Decorating scissors with "wiggly eyes", craft fur, and various other materials.
- Designing puppets out of paper bags.
- Creating a custom puzzle from magazines.
- Making a turtle out of paper plates.
- Creating castles and crowns from construction paper.
- Designing custom cards, invitations, and thank-you notes from various types of paper.

**Basically, just let your students be creative and have fun!**





## Learning To Cut

### Scissors Safety

#### Take Care

- Explain that scissors are used for cutting and snipping only - scissors are **not** toys!
- Store scissors in a safe place to prevent accidents.
- Supervise children whenever they are using scissors.

#### Carry

- Wrap fingers around closed blades.
- Carry scissors with blades pointing down.
- Pass scissors with fingers wrapped loosely around closed blades - handles should face person who will be taking scissors.

#### Walk

- Walk slowly when holding scissors.
- Remind children to watch where they are going.

#### Sit

- Teach children to sit in a proper fitting chair with both feet on the floor.
- Sit at desk or table to stabilize the hands and the body.
- One hand (holder) holds the paper while the other hand (driver) cuts the paper.

### Beginners' Cutting Steps

#### Thumbs up

- Start with the hand in a "thumbs up" position and stay in this position the entire time during cutting.
- Place the thumb in the top (smaller) loop.

#### Pointer Drives

- Wrap pointer finger around the bottom of the scissors handle.
- The pointer finger will "lead" the way by guiding the direction of the scissors.

#### Passengers

- Place the middle finger and ring finger in the bottom loop.
- If the "pinkie" finger will fit in the bottom loop, place it there also. Otherwise, let the "pinkie" finger remain behind the scissors

\* Remind children to open and close the scissors while slowly pushing them forward.

\* Create flash cards from these cutting steps for reminders during cutting activities.

\* Reproduce the badge included in this file for the student to cut out and wear!

### Selecting a Good Pair of Scissors

- Select a pair of scissors that can be used with the left or right hand.
- Scissors with a finger loop that allows more than one finger in it provides better comfort and control during cutting.
- Scissors should be made with a durable pivot point and corrosion resistant blades. The angle of the grind on the cutting edge should be 5 degrees or less.
- Choose scissors designed to cut to the tip of all required materials (e.g. felt, fabric, yarn).
- Scissors should be backed by a warranty.
- Size of handles should be designed to comfortably fit a child's hand.



Learning to Cut Badge



## Learning To Cut REVIEW

**DEAR PARENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ has completed a unit on cutting.

Please review the following rules and techniques which your child has learned. Together you can discover the wonderful world of cutting.

### Scissors Safety

- always asks an adult before handling scissors.
- understands that scissors are for cutting and snipping - they are **not** toys.
- knows the parts of the scissors (handle, blades, and edges).
- stores scissors in a safe place to prevent accidents.
- carries scissors with the blades pointing down.
- passes scissors with fingers wrapped loosely around closed blades.
- handles scissors attentively and cautiously.
- sits straight when cutting.
- stabilizes paper with one hand and cuts with the other.

### First Cutting Steps

- understands the "thumbs up" position (smaller loop on top, thumb through top loop).
- comprehends that the pointer (index) finger leads.
- positions the pointer finger around the bottom of the scissors handle.
- places the middle finger and the ring finger in the bottom loop (if possible - pinkie position should be dictated by comfort).

### Developmental Cutting Activities

- cuts a line with a forward motion.
- cuts to a target.
- cuts curves.
- cuts a line and then changes direction.
- cuts different shapes.

**Comments:**

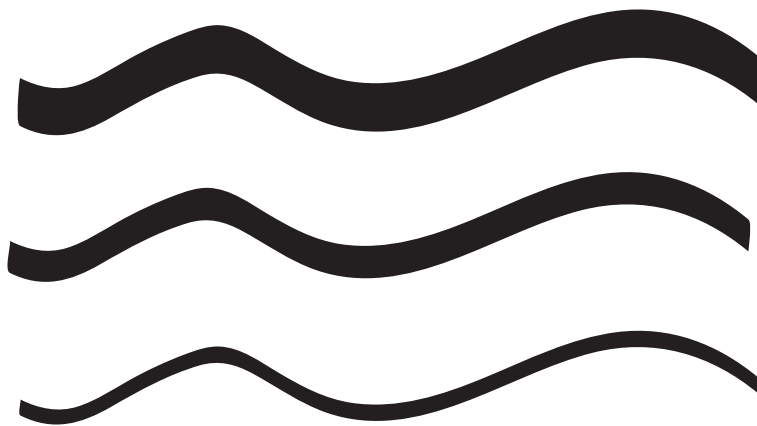
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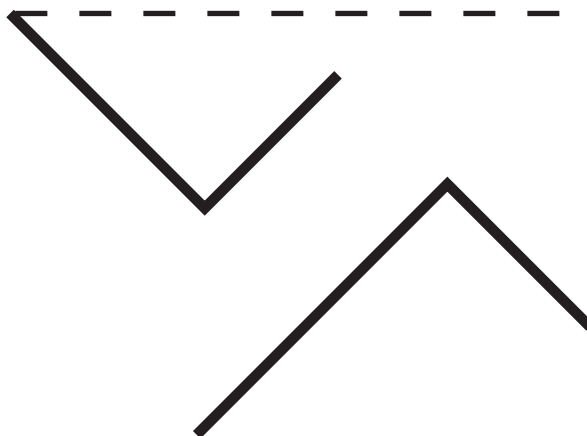
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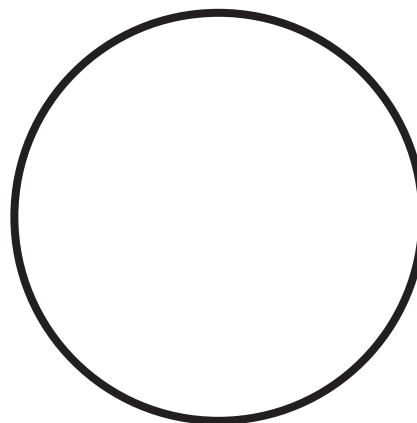
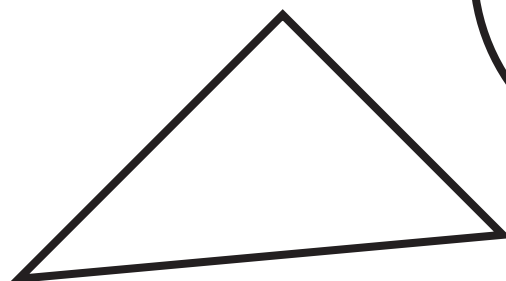
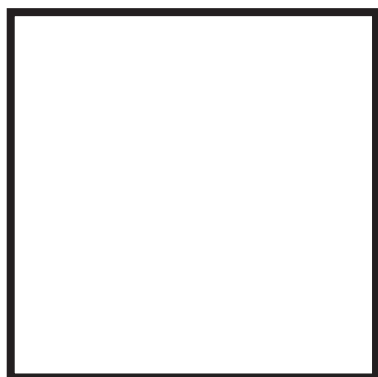
**CUT CURVES**



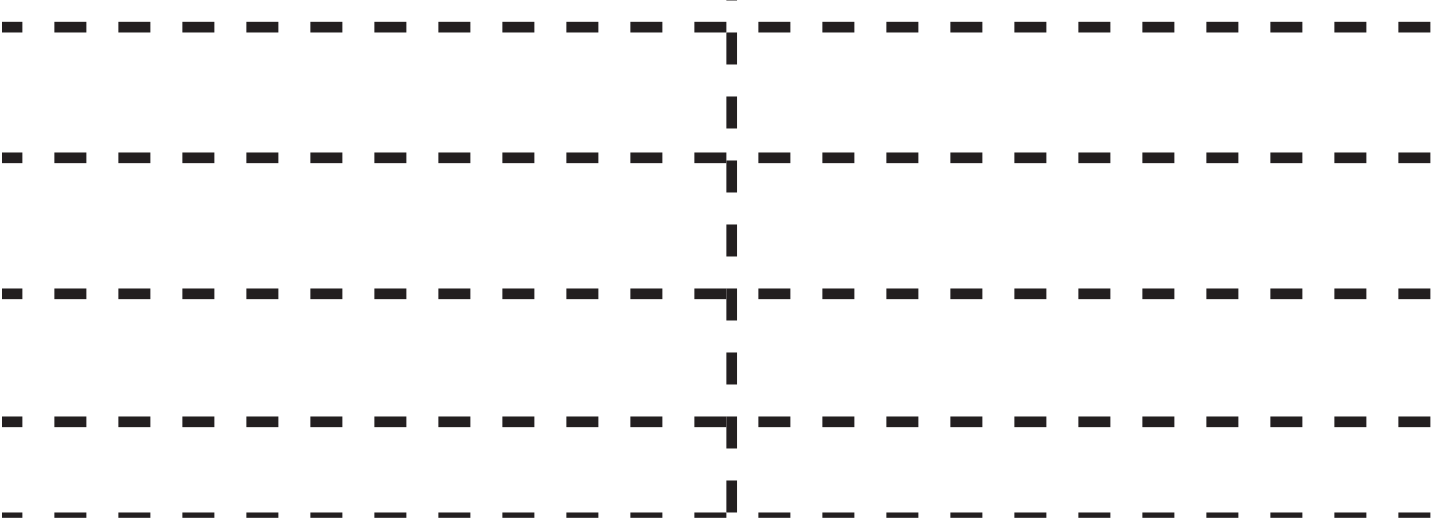
**CUT A LINE & CHANGE DIRECTIONS**



**CUT DIFFERENT SHAPES**



**SCRIBBLING**



**CUT A LINE**



**CUT TO A TARGET**

