



SCISSOR SKILLS

Long-term goal: _____ will be able to manipulate scissors safely and with sufficient skill to fully engage in classroom routines.

Current Level of Functioning:

- ___ Shows an interest in scissors
- ___ Holds and manipulates scissors appropriately
- ___ Opens and closes scissors in a controlled fashion
- ___ Cuts short random snips
- ___ Manipulates scissors in a forward motion (1" strip, 4" strip, 6" strip, 8" strip)
- ___ Coordinates the latera direction of scissors (stays within 6", 4", 2", 1" line)
- ___ Cuts a straightforward line (thick line, thinner line)
- ___ Cuts simple geometric shapes (square, triangle, semicircle, circle)
- ___ Cuts simple figure shapes
- ___ Cuts complex figure shapes
- ___ Cuts non-paper materials

Prerequisite skills:

Sitting balance and stability

Stable shoulders; Arm and wrist control

Fine motor skills – isolation of the thumb, index and middle fingers, grasp and release

Bilateral integration (for scissors, the two hands have different jobs – open/close vs hold/turn)

Visual and visual motor skills

Readiness activities can include:

Tongs, tweezers, clothes pegs, medicine droppers, turkey basters

Snip straws into pieces to make necklaces; snipping or cutting playdoh

Beading, lacing; squirt guns, spray bottles, single hole punchers

‘Colouring’ pictures or making ‘mosaic pictures’ using snipped or narrow strips of paper

Snipping strips of paper

Other considerations:

Puppet play with moveable mouths can assist ‘open/close’ skill

Finger action songs can help with individualization of finger control

Shorter blades are easier to manipulate

Stiffer paper is easier to cut and manipulate with the helper hand; use half or quarter sheets

Simplify the image; make lines thicker

Use stickers, dots or hole punches to cue turning corners

Teaching strategies:

Thumb on top (can use sticker cue) and ‘driver out’ (index finger supports lateral control)

Helper hand should have thumb on top, close enough to support the paper but avoid fingers

Cut away from the body; turn the page not the scissors