

HOW TO TEACH SCISSOR CUTTING SKILLS

Scissor skills are developmental and typically follow a sequence. When you follow the developmental sequence of scissor cutting skills your child will be so much more successful cutting with scissors. With well developed fine motor skills your child will be ready and able to cut like pros!



Developmental Sequence of Cutting Skills

This is the order in which cutting skills should be introduced to young children.

- Rip
- Snip
- Fringe
- Straight lines
- Zig zag lines
- Curved lines (circles, waves, hearts)
- Right angles (squares and rectangles)

We use fine motor skills to make small movements. These movements come so naturally to most people that we usually don't think about them. Fine motor skills are complex, however. They involve the coordinated efforts of the brain and muscles, and they're built on the gross motor skills that allow us to make bigger movements."

Fine motor skills can include small movements such as:

- holding a pencil
 - maneuvering a pencil
 - scissor skills
 - pushing Lego blocks together (and pulling them apart)
 - manipulating play dough
 - getting dressed with belts, buttons, zippers and snaps
 - using silverware while eating
 - opening and closing latches
 - technology/mouse manipulation
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- Pom Poms in general are small, needing small movements to grasp them, pick them up, and move them. They are fantastic material to work on hand eye coordination.
 - Buttons are also small items that work great in developing fine motor skills. Picking them up works those small muscles, But the true fine motor skills comes in the act of buttoning something up, that takes some amazing finger strength and hand eye coordination.
 - Paper Clips are great for finger movements and manipulation. Being able to slide the clip onto a piece of paper takes a lot of concentration for kids in preschool and kindergarten.
 - Clothespins are a fantastic material for building finger strength. We use them a lot in our learning activities that the kids absolutely love.
 - Rubber Bands also work on finger strength, but in the opposite way that most materials do. These are a fantastic addition to any fine motor activity!
 - Tweezers take a lot of hand eye coordination to be able to operate successfully and move an item from one place to another. Try it!
 - Pipe Cleaners can be used as a great tool for fine motor skills. They can be threaded and poked!
 - Straws can be used as beads, to thread onto something! But they also work great with play dough too.
 - Play Dough is fantastic for building those small muscles! Kneading, pushing and rolling the dough really helps!

ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Certain types of activities work on fine motor skills in ways that strengthen fingers, works on hand eye coordination and helps with their precision.



30 MATERIALS & ACTIVITIES

that promote **FINE MOTOR SKILLS**

what to use:

POM POMS
BUTTONS
PAPER CLIPS
CLOTHESPINS
RUBBER BANDS
TWEEZERS
PIPE CLEANERS
STRAWS
PLAY DOUGH
NUTS & BOLTS
STICKERS
HOLE PUNCH
SYRINGES
EYE DROPPERS
KITCHEN TONGS
TOOTHPICKS

what to do:

SEWING
WEAVING
LACING
BEADING
BALANCING
SPOONING
PAINTING
TRACING
PINCHING
THREADING
MAKE THINGS SMALL
CUTTING
SORTING
POKING
BUTTONING