

Cutting Skills Guide

Materials:

- A tray
- 1 Pair of Scissors (a pair that can be for either right or left handed children)
- 1 Cutting Form
- 1 Envelope

Cutting Sequence:

1. Single Straight Line and Diagonal Line - ½" Short Strips
2. Straight Line ½" - Short Strips
3. Straight Line - Quarter Block
4. Straight Line - Long Strips
5. Diagonal - Quarter Block
6. Diagonal - Half Block
7. Points - Short Strips
8. Points - Long Strips
9. Curves - Short Strips
10. Curves - Long Strips
11. Corners - Short Strips
12. Corners - Long Strips
13. Multi-Shape - Short Strips
14. Multi-Shape - Long Strips
15. Geometric Shapes - Single
16. Geometric Shapes - Long Strips
17. Simple Outline Shapes - Single
18. Fold & Cut Half Shapes - Simple
19. Fold & Cut Half Shapes - Challenging
20. Spirals - Small and Large

Presentation:

1. Take the child over to where the cutting materials are kept.
2. The teacher should show the child how to pick-up and carry a tray by putting one hand on each side of the tray with thumbs on top and fingers on the bottom.
3. The teacher should show the child where the scissors is kept.
4. The child should choose a pair of scissors and put it on the tray.
5. The teacher should show the child where the cutting forms are kept. She should explain which form the child needs to place on their tray.
6. The child should take the appropriate cutting form and put it on their tray.
7. The teacher should show the child where the envelopes are kept.
8. The child should take an envelope and put it on their tray.
9. The child should take the tray over to a table.
10. The teacher should collect the same materials on a tray and then take it to the table.
11. The teacher should pick-up the form in her sub- dominant hand and the scissors in the dominant hand.
12. The teacher should open the scissors and place the form in-between the blades and close them gently to make a cut.
13. The teacher should cut along the cutting line.
14. Invite the child to cut their paper in the same way.
15. When you and the child are both finished cutting, put the cut-outs in the envelope and then return all the materials and paper to your trays.
16. Pick-up your trays and walk over to where the scrap paper basket is kept for recycling. Place your scraps in the basket.
17. Take your tray over to where the scissors is kept and return the scissors.
18. Take the envelope with your finished cuttings and put it in your designated spot.
19. Return the tray to where it belongs.

Variations and Extensions:

1. The child can cut-out pictures from a magazine
2. The child can use other materials to cut (fabric, ribbon, etc.)

Points of Interest:

1. How the scissors feel
2. How different materials feel to cut through them

Control of Error:

1. Child can't make the scissors work
2. Scraps of paper all over

Aims:

Aiding in development of order, coordination, concentration, independence, learning to use a scissors, preparation for penmanship, other art experiences, manipulating other objects, etc.

Age:

2 ½ and up

Language:

Scissors, blades, sharp, careful, safety, cut, straight, diagonal, sharp, curve, corners, multi-shapes, geometric shapes, simple, challenging, outline, fold, half, spirals, etc.

