

What is the development of cutting?

- It is moving from beginner to advanced cutting skills.
- The steps in the development of cutting are: **1) snipping**, **2) fringing**, **3) cutting lines**, **4) cutting corners** and **5) cutting curves**.

Why is the development of cutting important?

- To build skills by progressing through each step
- To provide cutting tasks at the correct skill level

How to encourage the development of cutting skills?

- Have beginners cut wide and straight lines on smaller, thicker paper.
- As skills improve, the paper can be larger, the lines can become narrower and curves or corners may be added to the path.

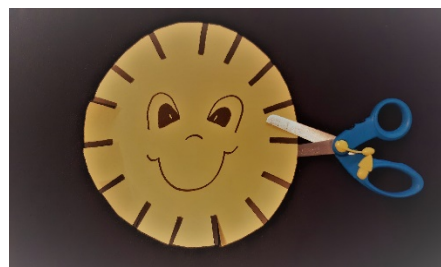
1) SNIPPING:

- Have the child roll out playdough and snip it into pieces.
- Let the child explore snipping paper freely, without following lines.
- Teach the child to target a line by practicing on strips of paper (make the paper short and narrow so one close of the scissors will cut across the entire strip and draw wide target lines).



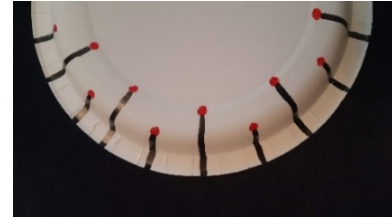
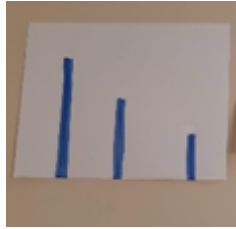
2) FRINGING:

- Start the child with thick, straight lines that need only 1 scissor snip to cut.
- Draw the lines on smaller pieces of thick paper to make holding it easier.
- Draw a dot or place a sticker at the end of the lines as cues for the child to stop cutting.





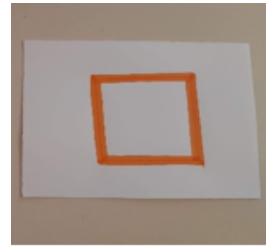
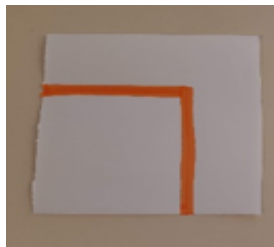
3) CUTTING LINES:

- Have the child cut along longer straight lines by learning to join snips (make a full snip, move the scissors forward, make another snip and keep repeating).
- Some children find this challenging and will push through the paper or keep pulling the scissors away after each snip.
- Start them with lines of 2-4 scissor snips long and use a dot or sticker at the end of the lines as a cue to stop cutting.
- Use smaller pieces of paper for easier handling.
- (Photos on next page)





4) CUTTING CORNERS:

- Ensure the child turns the paper (not the scissors) before changing direction to cut along the next line.
- Placing a dot in the corner acts as a cue to help guide when they should turn the paper.
- Start the child with two lines leading from the edges of the paper and only one corner to cut.
- Then, have them cut images that are more advanced with multiple corners.
- Use wide lines on smaller pieces of thick paper.
- Left-handed children should cut in a clockwise  direction and right-handed children should  cut in a counter-clockwise direction.



CUTTING CURVES:

- Encourage the child to coordinate slow paper turning with slow scissor closing.
- Use wide lines on smaller pieces of thick paper.
- Start the child with gentle curves leading from the edge of the paper.
- Then, have them cut images that are more advanced with multiple curves.
- Left-handed children should cut in a clockwise  direction and right-handed children should  cut in a counter-clockwise direction.



ADVANCED CUTTING:

- Have the child progress to a variety of shapes, with narrower lines drawn on larger pieces of thin paper.

