# Cutting Activities

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3 years:</td>
<td>Begin introducing scissors and pre-cutting activities</td>
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<td>Try loop scissors</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4 years:</td>
<td>Teach your child to cut on a line</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6 years:</td>
<td>Teach your child to cut out a variety of simple shapes</td>
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</tbody>
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## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Cutting is a skill used throughout life.
- Cutting requires both hands. One hand has to press the paper steady while the other is cuts.
- Cutting skills help in developing hand muscles.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

*Always* supervise your child during cutting activities.

**Pre-cutting activities:**
- Grasp objects with small tongs.
- Complete crafts with clothespins. Example: get a circle plate and clip clothespins all around to make a sun.
- Practice holding the scissors using a “thumbs up” position. Place the thumb in the little hole, and all other fingers in the large hole.

**Cutting activities:**
- Pretend the scissors are an animal. Have the animal take big chomps on the paper.
- Snip straws and Twizzlers into small pieces.
- Cut dough material. Examples: play dough, putty, clay, cookie dough.
- Draw a line with different colors. Have the child snip one color at a time until they complete the entire line.
- Put a piece of candy at the end of a line. Have your child cut on the line to get to the candy.
I have a copy of these home instructions, know what I need to do, and understand why they are important.