

Alternatives to stencils

The opportunity to practise cutting using stencils such as those provided in this book is an important experience for children in preparation for school. However, there are many other ways that cutting out can be encouraged that are fun, provide variety and still develop scissor skills.

- ☺ If you are using stencils, try photocopying onto coloured paper or tablex card in order to provide a different experience.
- ☺ Have children place a few stamps, texta spots or stickers on paper, cardboard or other suitable medium. Children can then use their scissors to cut from point to point. Encourage them to stop at each sticker or stamp to see where they are going next.
- ☺ Help children to make their own cutting materials. Large roads (thick cutting lines) can be made using paint rollers on paper. Stamp rollers will create a different effect. Once dry, children can try to 'drive' their scissors along these roads.
- ☺ Draw thick circles or squares with a marker around pictures in magazines or on old cards to help children to organise their cutting.
- ☺ Cut the naturally occurring lines on large leaves collected from the ground.
- ☺ Give a variety of materials for experimentation such as alfoil, tracing paper, wool, string and stiff fabric to cut.

Remember that provided children have the opportunity to learn the basic mechanics and sequence of cutting out, their motivation to participate will be enhanced if they are exposed to a range of experiences.