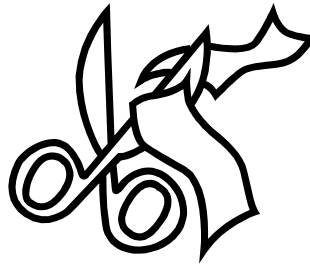


Developing cutting skills



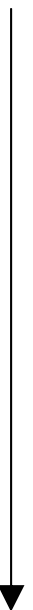
Learning to cut out is a very complex challenge requiring a high level of motor planning. Many children have few opportunities to practice away from the early childhood environment. Being successful when they first use scissors leads to a greater motivation to have a go at something more difficult later on.

Cutting skills follow a well defined progression. Usually, children receive wonderful opportunities to experiment in the first stage when they are learning to open and close the scissors and snip. However, they sometimes miss out on the practice at the next stages and move on to activities that are too hard. Following this sequence can help to ensure that children master the planning and co-ordination that is needed every step of the way. The table on the following page further defines how to best grade cutting activities.

The stages in the sequence can be roughly divided in this way:

- ✂ Snipping or making one cut
- ✂ Forward cutting by combining a small number of snips
- ✂ Forward cutting along a line and from one point to another
- ✂ Making a simple change in direction while cutting
- ✂ Cutting out a square
- ✂ Cutting along a curve
- ✂ Cutting out a circle
- ✂ Cutting more complex shapes and pictures

Easier



Harder