

Scissors

If you are doing activities that involve cutting paper, card or materials make sure they are sharp enough for the task otherwise your child/ren may get frustrated and are more likely to hurt themselves or you.

If you would rather not use sharp scissors with your child/ren then why not try the easy cutting section below to help them learn how to use scissors correctly without any risk of hurting themselves or you. This will also help them figure out which hand they prefer to use.

Safety

Ensure you remind your child/ren about being careful when using scissors:

- Pay attention when using scissors. Stop using the scissors if you want to look up.
- Cut in a direction away from your body and fingers, hands, arms, and legs and other people.
- Never run, climb, fight or mess around when holding scissors.
- Show them how to carry scissors – blade pointing downwards when carrying them

Easy cutting practice: **Use **plastic scissors** without sharp blades** (these are easily available online)

Practice using scissors correctly with one hand (these scissors will work for right or left handed children) by cutting soft materials such as:

- Playdough
- Cooked spaghetti or other long pasta
- Sweet strawberry laces – maybe you could suggest cutting them into a certain number of pieces

Cutting practice **Use **sharp children's scissors** for these activities**

Offer a variety of pictures for 'cutting and sticking' – perhaps they could make a picture to send to a friend or relative; don't worry about being precise it's the practice that's important; you could use:

- Old magazines
- Magazines from supermarkets
- Catalogues – you could cut out the outline of a house and draw 2 rooms upstairs and 2 down – get them to choose and cut out appropriate furniture or other items to stick in the rooms; or make a garden using a flowery catalogue.
- Wrapping paper
- Old greetings cards
- Any paper – use different colours – maybe they could create a rainbow.
- Drinking straws – cut into pieces and then they can thread them onto wool or string – 2 activities in 1 😊

For more 'precise' cutting practice there are plenty of printable pages on Activity Village and dltk

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/cutting-skills-printables>

http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/miscellaneous/scissor_skills.htm

Or collect some colour charts to cut up along the lines.

For added fun you could use patterned scissors.