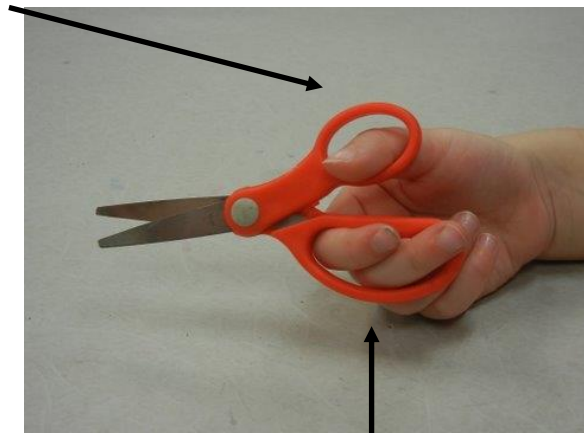


CUTTING TIPS

1. Children need lots of practice to become good at cutting.
2. Don't hesitate to show your child how to cut, holding the paper with one hand and the scissors with the other.
3. If your child is having difficulty cutting, have him or her hold the scissors this way:

Thumb in the top hole



Middle finger and pointer in the bottom hole

The scissors can be held straighter this way which usually leads to better cutting.

4. Make sure your child realizes that scissors are only to cut paper. If you fear that hair, clothes, curtains, etc. may get cut, make cutting a supervised activity. Have your child cut while you are working at the table.
5. At first, let your child cut paper freely. Cutting over a wastebasket will prevent a lot of the mess. The cut pieces can be pasted together to make a picture or collage.
6. Later draw shapes to cut (circles, squares, triangles) or draw lines for your child to cut on. Your child could trace lids or small boxes or draw his or her own shapes to cut out.
7. Many parents have told me their children have become good at cutting by cutting out coupons in magazines or newspapers.
8. Pictures can be cut out of old magazines or used coloring books.

Happy cutting!