

BEGINNER CUTTING SKILLS FOR TODDLERS AND YOUNG KIDS

Early exposure is the best way to help kids learn good positioning and habits with scissors. Try these fun activities!

1 || Lion's Mane

For this simple activity, cut a circle out of yellow or orange paper and draw a lion's face in the middle. Then, tell the child to give the lion a mane! Help the child grasp scissors properly to snip along the edge of the paper, all the way around the circle.

2 || Grassy Bug Hideout

Start by drawing several pictures of bugs along the bottom of a piece of paper. Then, provide the child with a strip of green paper, wide enough that it will cover the bugs at the bottom of the paper if you lay it over top of them. Have the child snip along the edge of the green strip of paper to make grass. Tape the unsnipped edge of the green strip along the bottom of the paper so it can flip up (covering the bugs) or down (revealing the bugs).

3 || Leafy (or Snowy) Tree

For fall, cut a circle out of red, yellow or orange paper and have kids snip around the edge to create a leafy, fringed edge. Add a brown trunk and you're all set! For spring or summer, make the circle green. For a winter tree, make it white and add some glitter for a snowy sparkle.

4 || Mini Monsters

This is an awesome one for Halloween! Cut circles out of different colored paper. Have kids snip around the edges to create a hairy monster! Add googly eyes and other spooky facial features!

5 || Snipping Straws

Snipping straws is one of my favorite activities because there's a great element of cause and effect! Snip off a piece of a straw, and it goes bouncing up into the air.

6 || Flower Garden

Start with a handful of colorful paper circles. Have kids snip around the edges to make the flower petals. Glue them onto paper, add green stems and a circle in a contrasting color to create the center of the flower.

7 || Sunshine

Once your flower garden is complete, you'll need to add a sun, of course! You know the drill – cut out a yellow or orange circle and have kids snip all the way around the edge to make the rays!

8 || Snipping Play Dough

This is another great way to help kids experiment. Snipping against resistance is also great for building hand strength and for providing proprioceptive input.

9 || Sticker Snipping

Use stickers as a visual target. Place stickers in a line across a strip of paper and have them snip in between (or on) each one. Place one toward the center of a small piece of paper and have kids work on cutting forward across the paper until they reach the sticker target.

10 || Paint Sample Cutting

I love using paint samples as kids begin to learn how to cut on lines. The white lines are a great contrast against the paint colors, strips are the perfect width for beginners, and the paper has some weight to it, which makes it easier to cut.