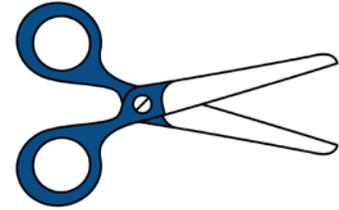


Scissors - Making Stronger Fingers: Ages 4-5

Cutting with scissors will help your child:

- Increase hand-eye coordination
- Strengthen the small muscles in the fingers and hands
- Get a head start in activities he will have in kindergarten



Ideas to try with your child:

- Provide child-safe scissors and a place to sit while cutting.
- Offer old magazines, junk mail, or old letters in a basket for cutting to start. Then, practice cutting different materials: copy paper, card stock, tag board, cereal boxes, paper bags, or straws.
- Keep a close eye on your child while she is practicing and set clear rules for using scissors.
- Use this phrase to remind them to hold the scissors correctly: “thumb up, elbow in.”

If your child is struggling:

- Playdough can be cut easily with scissors. Card stock or old file folders are also easier to cut for beginners.
- Snipping is easiest, followed by cutting across a page, then on a straight line, and finally cutting a curved line. Start with the simplest first.

Going further:

- Having more lines to cut is more challenging; try a coloring book page. After cutting a figure from the coloring page, taping or gluing them to a stick or straw could create a puppet.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.