

### Common Problems with Cutting

<u>You might see:</u>	<u>You might try:</u>
Unable to grasp scissors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teach how fingers and thumbs should be positioned on the handle of the scissors – thumb through the thumb hole, index finger on the bottom edge of the blade, and third finger through the larger loop of the scissors handle.</li> <li>▪ Trial different scissors – smaller/bigger loops, plastic scissors, metal scissors, loop scissors</li> <li>▪ Thumb on top – towards the sky</li> <li>▪ Have a picture showing correct scissor grasp for quick reference</li> <li>▪ Use visual cues – colour code or use stickers to identify loops on the handle.</li> </ul>
Unable to open and close scissors Cannot make simple snips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pre-Cutting Activities Handout</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Hand Strengthening Activities Handout</b></li> <li>▪ Trial different scissors</li> <li>▪ Use double loop scissors to allow adult to assist</li> <li>▪ To help with opening – use spring back scissors, loop scissors</li> <li>▪ To help with closing – bind cross section with an elastic</li> </ul>
Can make simple snips but has trouble with consecutive cutting action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pre-Cutting Activities Handout</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Hand Strengthening Activities Handout</b></li> <li>▪ Start with small 4”-square pieces of paper, progress to larger sized paper</li> <li>▪ Punch holes, in a straight line, on a strip of paper, cut the paper using the holes as a guide</li> </ul>
Cannot cut on a line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Start with thick bold lines (1/2” thickness), progress to regular pencil thick lines</li> <li>▪ Trial different coloured lines and/or different coloured paper</li> <li>▪ Start with straight lines, then zig zag lines, then curved lines</li> <li>▪ Start with one line style, progress to combination of line styles</li> <li>▪ Practice cutting lines, then simple shapes, then complex patterns</li> </ul>
Difficulty controlling direction of cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teach child to cut in a forward direction – scissors blade points away from the body</li> <li>▪ Right Handed – cut in a counter clockwise direction</li> <li>▪ Left-Handed – cut in a clockwise direction</li> </ul>
Difficulty cutting the paper Paper bends in the scissors instead of cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep wrist in neutral alignment with the thumb on top</li> <li>▪ Use shorter controller cutting motions</li> <li>▪ Start with stiffer paper such as thin cardboard or construction paper, progress to standard white paper</li> <li>▪ Use smaller sized paper</li> <li>▪ Glue popsicle sticks on the paper and cut between them</li> <li>▪ Trial different scissors – some scissors do not work when used with the left hand</li> </ul>
Difficulty using both hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pre-Cutting Activities Handout</b></li> <li>▪ Follow the progressing of developmental cutting – start with snipping, cutting small pieces of paper, progress to larger lines and complex patterns</li> </ul>