

Progression for Scissor Skills

1. **Pre-Scissor Skills** - ability to isolate fingers and open and close hand

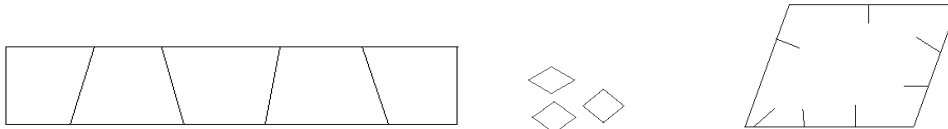
- a. Pick up objects with bread tongs or small kitchen tongs.



- b. Punch holes with a hole punch.
 c. Play with a trigger spray bottle, water gun or squeeze a baster.

2. **Snipping**

- a. Random snipping across a narrow paper strip or on the sides of a small piece of paper.



- b. Controlled snipping across a narrow strip. Child cuts on wide lines with single snip.

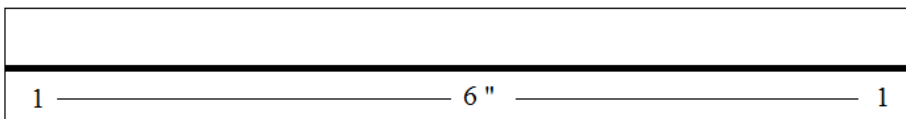


3. **Consecutive Cutting**

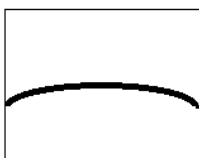
- a. Gradually increase width of strip of paper until child must use consecutive cuts to cut across paper.



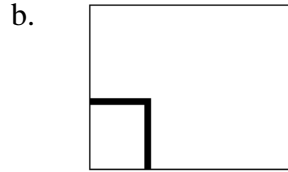
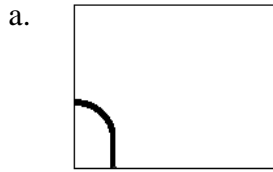
- b. Cut on straight lines until child can cut 6" on a wide line.



4. **Simple Curves**



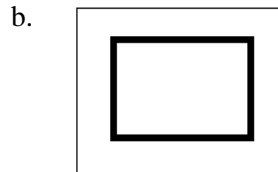
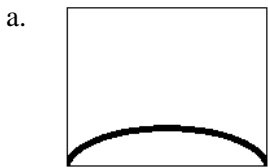
5. Rounded and Square Corners



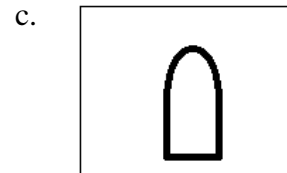
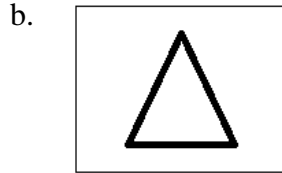
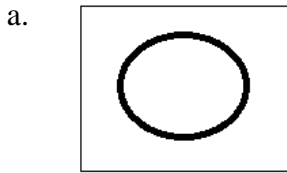
Rounded corners are the beginning of learning to turn the paper as you cut.

Square corners teach children to 1.) cut 2.) stop, and 3.) then turn the paper and cut.

6. Semicircles and Squares

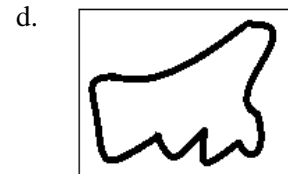
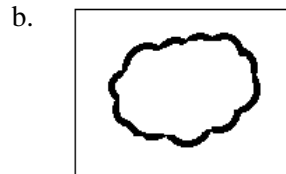


7. Circles & Triangles & combined Straight & Curved Lines



8. Irregular Shapes

As the child's ability improves, progress to simple irregular shapes and gradually progress to more and smaller details.



General Reminders

- keep the task well within the child's ability
- wide lines encourage scissor control and are oriented to make cutting a successful experience
- use small pieces of paper that the child can handle
- stiffer paper is easier to cut than thin, floppy paper (use cardstock, index cards, etc)
- keep the index finger out of the loop to support the direction of movement
- rule of thumb - if the child's thumbs aren't up (both to hold the paper and cut) then the child's hands are positioned incorrectly. You should be able to see both thumbs!