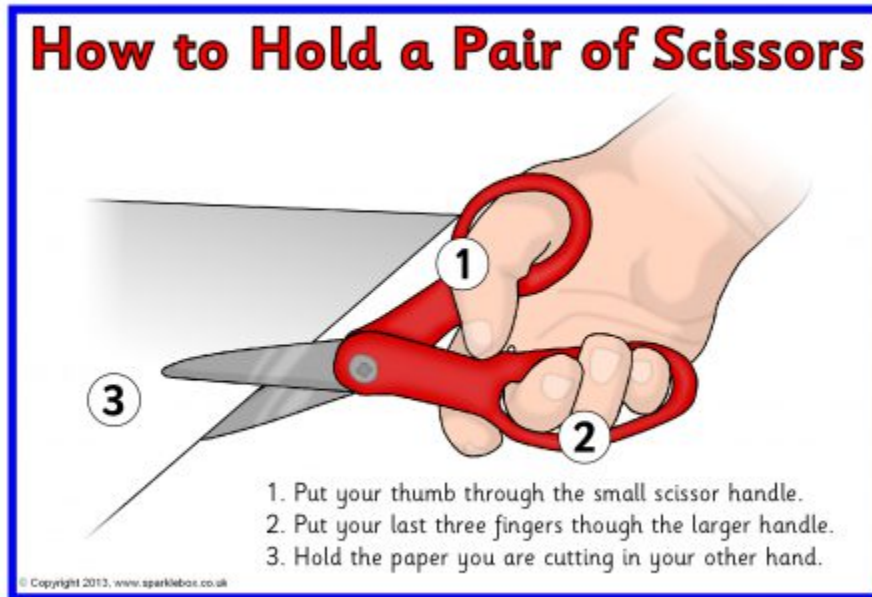


## Scissor Skills for Preschool/Kindergarten



*sparklebox.co.uk*

### Holding scissors properly:

- The proper way to hold scissors is with the thumb up in the small loop and the fingers in the large loop. Thumb stays pointing up to keep the forearm in a neutral position.

### Fun ways to help children hold scissors:

- **Thumbs up!:** Tell the child to make sure their thumbs are up when holding scissors.
- **Smiley Face:** Draw a smiley face (or put a sticker on) the child's thumb to remind them that their thumb goes on top.
- **Googly Eyes:** Glue googly eyes on the sides of the handle that holds the thumb or on top of the handle.
- **Animal Scissors:** Make scissors into animals by drawing eyes on the handle where they put their thumb and teeth on the blades.

### If your child is left-handed . . .

- Get left-handed scissors but continue to practice thumbs up grip.

- Cut in a clockwise direction.

### **What should I be seeing?**

- For preschoolers and kindergarteners, they should be cutting in small snips (cutting in place) at first, then learning to cut in a forward motion along short thick lines when they've mastered snipping. By the end of kindergarten, students should be able to cut out simple geometric shapes and be able to stop and change direction as needed.
- Your child should be supporting the other side of the paper or object with their non-dominant hand or rotating it as needed while cutting.

### **Things to cut (other than plain or colored paper):**

- Junk mail
- Straws
- Streamers
- Tape
- Ribbons
- Play Doh/Clay
- Slime
- Paper Plates
- Wax Paper
- Tin Foil
- Wrapping Paper
- Paint samples
- Grass
- Leaves
- Yarn
- Stickers
- Cheese slices
- Cooked spaghetti

*Remind child that scissors are for paper unless you allow them to cut specific things.*

### **Fun scissor activities:**

- **Scissor bins:** Grab things you are okay with your child cutting into small pieces (junk mail, paper packaging, wrapping paper, etc.) and put them into a bin or box. Give the child permission to cut what's in the bin.
- **Make a flower/lion:** Draw a circle on a piece of paper and draw a face inside the circle. Cut off the corners. Give to child and tell them to either make "petals" for the flower or "mane" for the lion but cutting straight lines all around the circle.

- **Paper Jar:** Cut strips of colored paper. Have child cut the strips of paper into small pieces into a jar to fill it up. You can even add rewards if the jar gets full or glue pieces onto a paper to make a picture.
- **Cutting Flowers:** Have child cut flowers from garden with scissors (dandelions are great for this). Have them arrange flowers in vase or jar.
- **Straw Jewelry:** Have child snip a straw into pieces. Have child then string straw pieces on string or yarn to make jewelry.

**Other resources:**

- <https://pocketofpreschool.com/scissor-skills-activities-and-free-cutting-printables/>
- <https://www.geteduca.com/blog/scissor-skills-for-preschoolers/>
- <https://www.sightandsoundreading.com/how-to-hold-scissors/>

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