Learning to Cut with Scissors ~ First Steps

Child development experts believe that children should begin to develop scissor skills

when they are 3 or 4 years old.

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| The child must first learn how to properly handle age-appropriate scissors. Teach him to always hold the scissors with his thumb toward the ceiling with his dominant hand. | Crafts for Scissor Practice thumbnail |
| Practice cutting with a large (not too thick) piece of paper and children's safety scissors.  Don't try to direct where or how to cut too much; the goal is to experiment. | http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-jK4YoLmcGM8/TfgBCxZMK8I/AAAAAAAACD4/AfiilqUL7jw/s1600/DSC03333.JPG |
| Practice cutting play dough with plastic (or regular) children's scissors. You can sometimes roll the dough into "snakes" for the child to cut. | http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-7Pqho6ZYfcY/TfgBIWNnRkI/AAAAAAAACD8/4tyclysdI08/s320/DSC03378.JPG |
| Magazine Cutting  Provide children with selected pages from a catalogue and safety scissors. Give them a purpose for cutting pictures. For instance, have them cut out pictures of objects that begin with a specific sound a letter makes, or items of a topic that is of interest to them. Have them glue the images onto a piece of paper. | http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-YyWYkbp2Blg/TcpvcWtJgTI/AAAAAAAABXc/uPcsHFafPyc/s1600/010.JPG |
| Grass Scene  Use a green piece of construction paper and have the child snip a fringe to create grass for a jungle or farm scene. You may also have them cut corners from other colors of paper and use those small cuttings to create scenes. | Fences  Use construction paper and have children cut on the long sides beginning from the bottom and moving along to the top. Use these pieces to build a fence on a collective mural or on their individual project. |

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Tear pages out of School Supply catalogues that might interest children and place in a tub or other container.

Attach scissors with a tread to a tub.

Ask children what they would want to cut with questions such as:

* What is your favourite ...
* If you could choose ...
* What would you use to ...
* Can you find a picture that starts with the sound we talked about ...

Ask the children if they want to glue these items on a paper or would they prefer to keep them in an envelope that they can make.