

THIS ISSUE:  
DEVELOPING SCISSOR  
SKILLS

NEXT ISSUE: CALMING AND  
ALERT ACTIVITIES

ISSUE 5

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# Thera *kids*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EDUCATORS  
AND PLANTING THE SEEDS OF CLASSROOM WELLNESS.

## DEVELOPING SCISSOR SKILLS

### What does it take?

Using scissors to cut is a complex task that requires a child to use multiple developmental skill sets such as:

- ✓ Good sitting posture
- ✓ Good shoulder, forearm, wrist and finger strength
- ✓ Good visual skills
- ✓ Good eye-hand coordination
- ✓ Good ability to use both hands simultaneously

### Scissor skill development stages:

- Learns to hold scissors (18-19 months)
- Opens/closes scissors (20-23 months)
- Randomly snips paper (23-29 months)
- Snips paper with forward progression (30-35 months)
- Cutting straight lines (36-41 months)
- Cutting curved lines (42-47 months)
- Cutting simple shapes (42-47 months)
- Cutting complex shapes (42-47 months)

[www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/140\\_Scissor%20skills.pdf](http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/140_Scissor%20skills.pdf)

### Tips and Techniques

#### Paper Thickness:

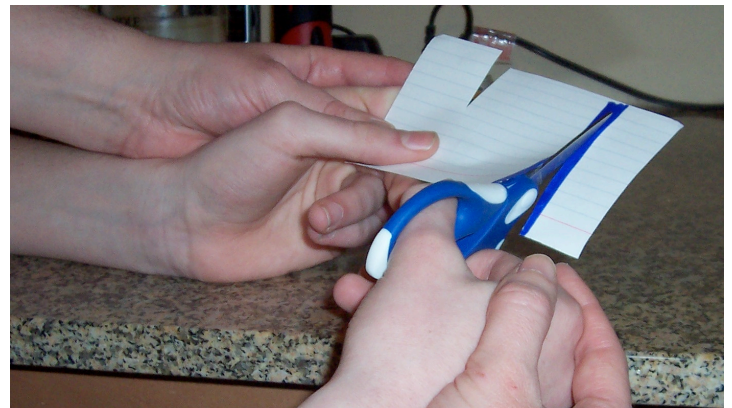
Believe it or not it's easier for children to cut heavier papers (cardstock) than thinner papers such as construction paper and copy paper.

#### Cutting on a straight line:

Start by cutting on a wide bolded line but short in length (1 inch wide and 2 inches long) and progress to a more narrow and longer line

Use a visual and tactile guide to cut along:  
a raised textured surface (dried glue, sandpaper, pipe cleaner, wikkistix, etc..)

**Demonstrate good positioning:**  
**Stand behind your child as you help demonstrate and correct their hand and finger positioning when cutting**



Therakids P.C. provides specialized occupational, physical and speech therapy services to help children overcome developmental concerns. Services are provided in the school setting throughout southwestern Illinois by licensed occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and speech-language pathologists. **Email: [www.Therakids.org](http://www.Therakids.org)**

