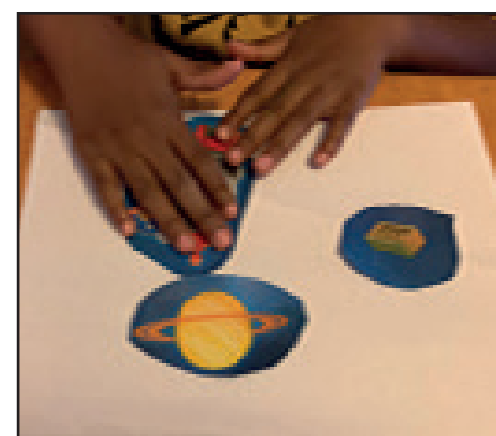
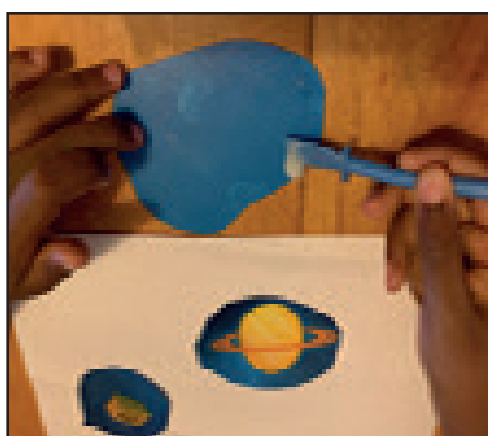
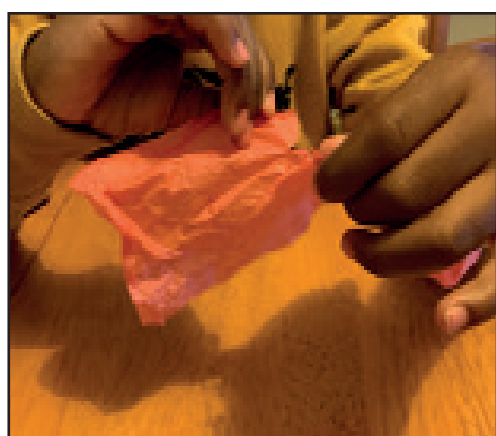


Development of Scissor Skills

Getting started - Stage 1 of 4

Activities using both hands

Tearing and sticking paper using a glue stick



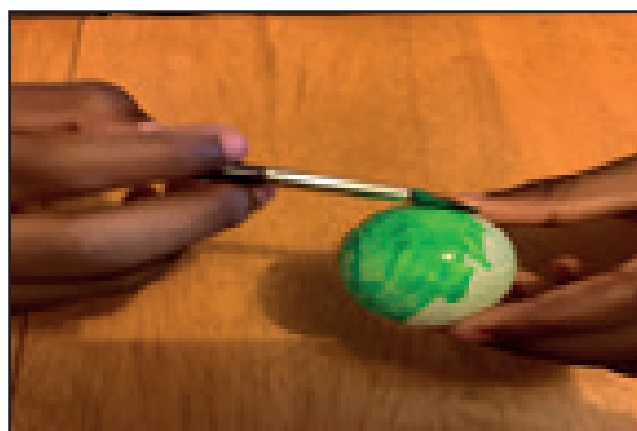
Pulling apart/pushing together construction pieces (loosely connected Mega Blocks/Duplo/Velcro fruit, jigsaw puzzle)



Holding a book and turning individual pages (start with cloth books, board books)

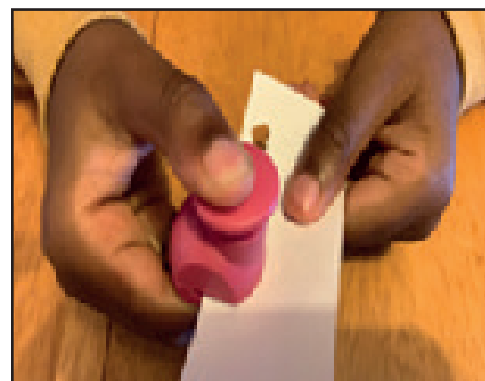
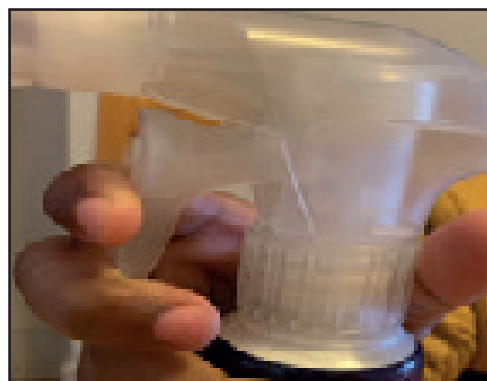


Holding object and painting it (card cube, polystyrene ball)



Hand strength/using thumb and index finger

Squeezy noise toys, Water Squirt toys



Playdough-Squashing with hand, squashing with thumb, index finger, between index finger and thumb, cookie cutter shapes, garlic press

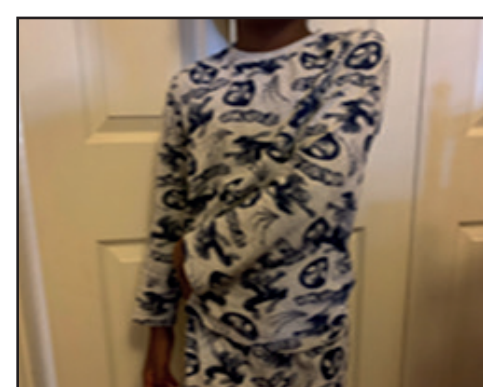
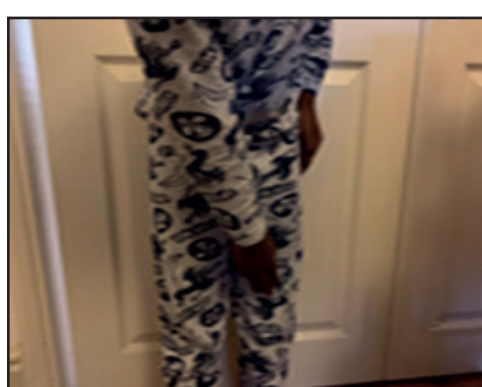
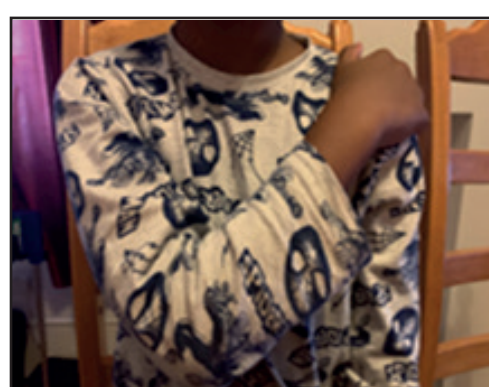


Crossing Midline

Beanbag games – taking bean bag off opposite shoulder and throwing, reaching across body to take beanbag from opposite side



Simon says – imitating reaching across body poses.

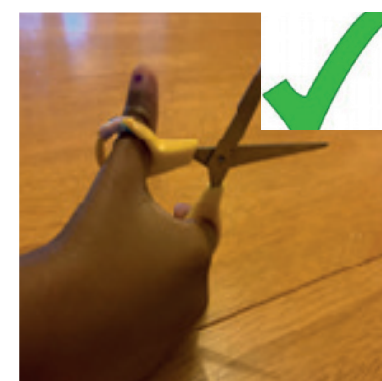
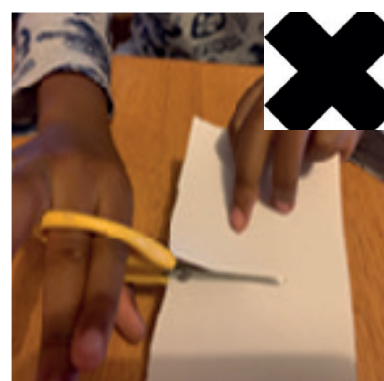
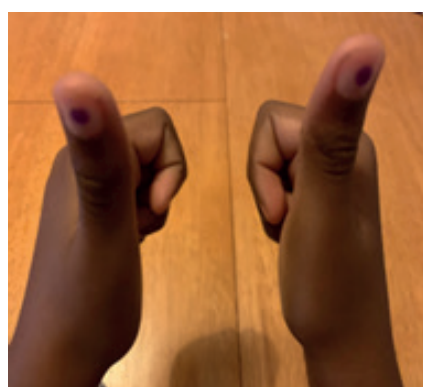


Next Step - Stage 2 of 4

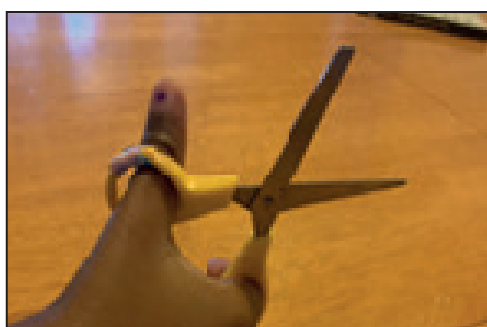
Try different scissors – Squeezy Mini Easigrip, Larger finger space
(www.peta-uk.com; www.amazon.co.uk)



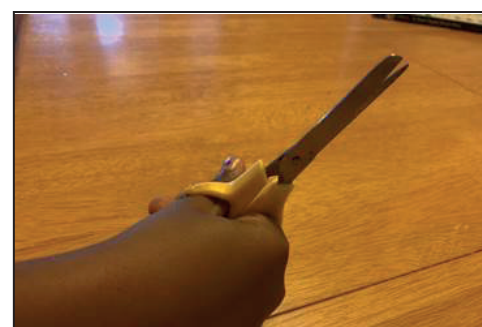
Emphasise 'Thumbs Up!' position (positioning hand so that thumb is on top – hand with scissors and hand supporting the paper). A visual aid can help – sticker on thumb/thumbnail)
Put coloured tape around the thumb hole of the scissors.



Practise opening and closing the scissors

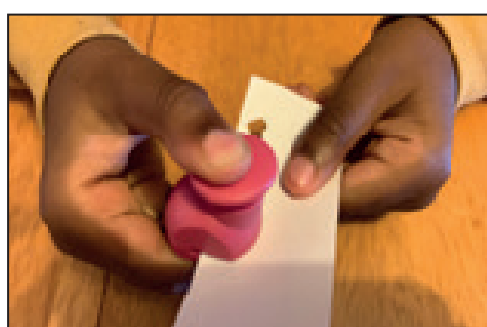


OPEN

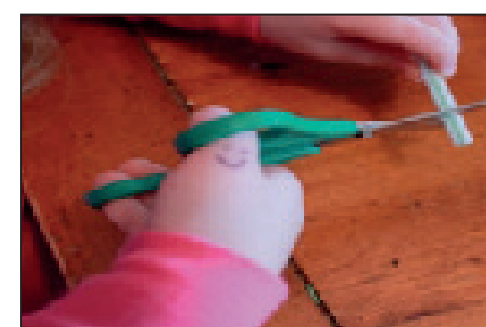


**CLOSE/
SQUEEZE**

Single hold craft hole punch or garlic press with playdough



Hold and snip off different size pieces of playdough and paper straws (combine with counting, sorting, maths, big/small, making necklaces). Support with verbal cues 'open, squeeze' and demonstrate this sequence.



Jointly hold a small piece of paper and snip around the edges.



Supported snipping

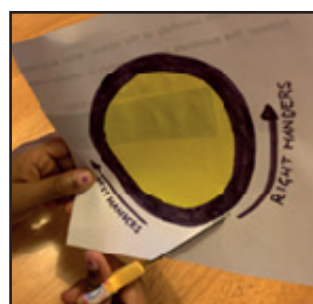


Independent Snipping



Snipping Project

Emphasise cutting direction: Right handers should cut anti clockwise and left handers clockwise. Add arrows if needed.



Emphasise when shifting the paper, demonstrate independent holding/shifting of paper Consecutive snips/cutting: hold and cut across small, narrow (2") pieces of paper (these pieces could be used for art project).



Emphasise and model 'Slow and careful' cutting. If the child struggles to reduce speed, demonstrate the speed by slowly tracing a finger over the cutting line and ask them to do this. Use hand over hand if necessary/tolerated.



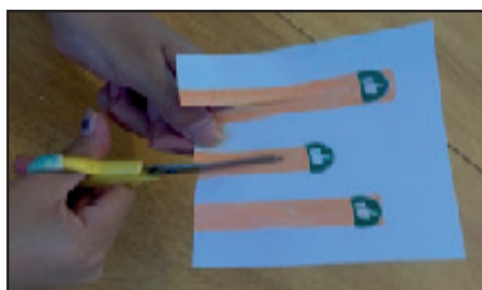
Cutting on thick lines, between lines, between boundaries (lolly sticks, pipe cleaners stuck on paper) – A5 or smaller sized paper. Bold lines and paths graded in width: 5cm, 3cm, 1.5cm.



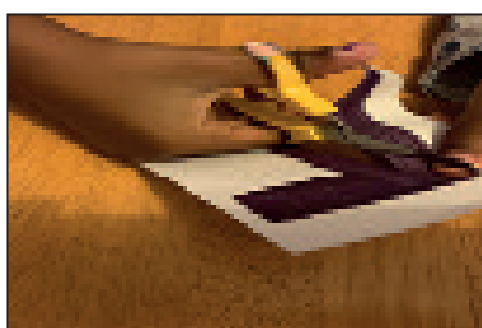
Introduce cutting thick paths with a change in direction and Cut around pictures with a thick bold simple cutting line.

Getting there - Stage 3 of 4

'Cut and Stop' - Continue to cut along thick and narrow bold paths but 'STOP' before the end. Use a sticker as a visual prompt to stop.



As accuracy and control develops reduce the thickness of bold paths and cutting 'paths' Progress to cutting with change of direction, curved lines and angled lines



Continue to emphasise 'thumb on top', 'shifting paper', correct direction of cutting, 'sloooow and careful' through verbal questioning (if this is appropriate to child's cognitive level) 'where should our thumb be?', 'Do you think you are going the right speed?' You can also use demonstration and verbal prompts if necessary.

If the child tends to go too fast use analogies such as 'As sloooow as a snail'. Trace over the cutting pattern with your finger at different speeds and ask them to identify the best speed for careful cutting. Then ask them to do this. Use hand over hand if necessary/tolerated.

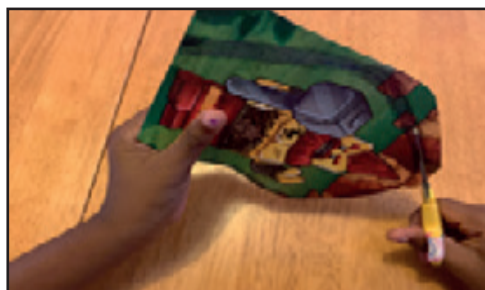
Add additional stickers to the cutting line to prompt change in direction or to increase the visual attention to the task.



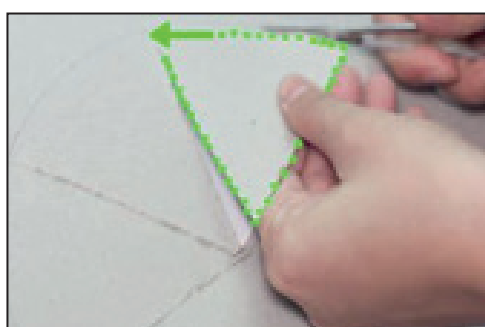
Feeling Confident - Stage 4 of 4

Starting to coordinate moving the paper and cutting. Draw around images/pictures that are more likely to interest and motivate your child. You could make a scrap book of images.

Use bold cutting lines of 1cm



Reinforce direction of cutting (generally anticlockwise for right handers/clockwise for left handers). Ask the child to trace the cutting line in the direction they should proceed with cutting before they start. Add an arrow in the correct direction or ask them to.



Introduce cutting with more changes of direction, introduce cutting circles.

