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| **Progression of cutting skills** | **Vocabulary** | **How to support?** |
| Holds scissors, often with both hands, learning to open and close the blades | Hold, move, in, out, open, shut, close, bend,  Cut, snip, squeeze, stretch, fold, knead, push, pull | Practice tearing paper  Strengthen fingers – use soft balls, playdough, toys filled with beans/sand |
| Opens/closes blades (not ready to use them on paper yet) | Open, move apart, close, shut, move in/out, fingers, thumb, together, apart, stretch, up, down | Practise opening and closing blades on playdough, in the sand or shaving foam, progressing to more firm materials like modelling clay  Encourage ‘thumbs up’ position |
| Starts snipping paper (not moving forward with the scissors but making small snips) | Snip, cut, hold, forward, backwards | Practice snipping, using foam sheets at first, to practice holding paper and snipping one handed  Progress to thicker paper e.g. sugar paper for easier handling  You could draw straight lines on the foam to introduce the idea of going forward, if ready |
| Snips paper moving forward | Across, forward, backward, side to side, straight ahead | Practice activities to promote crossing the mid-line of the body e.g. passing a ball from left to right, or filling up a pot on the left with the toys placed on the right |
| Uses helping hand to hold and help to guide the paper (non-dominant hand) | Upwards, downwards, sideways, hold still, rest your hand, hands together/apart, up and down | Promote activities to strengthen bilateral coordination e.g. lacing cards, holding a stencil with one hand and drawing with another, hand clapping games |
| Cuts straight line (within ½ inch from the drawn line, improving in accuracy) | Straight, across, forward, open and shut, move, together/apart, follow the line, close to | Use a piece of paper that is up to 6 inches long |
| Cuts curved line (a 1/4inch curved line, within 1/4inch from the line drawn) | Closer, on the line, next to the line, circle, curve, around, round, wobbly, wavy |  |
| Cuts circle shape (a circle of 6inch in diameter, within ½ from the drawn line, improving to about ¼ inch) | Circle, oval, round, curved, wavy  Move, twist, turn, pivot  Small snips, at the same time |  |
| Cuts square shape | Stop/start, turn, point, corner, pointed, cross, |  |
| Cuts complex shapes, such as figures. | Close to the line, on the line, outline, follow the line, background, |  |