

## St Margaret's CE Primary School

| 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,<br>Cut, snip, squeeze, stretch, fold, knead, push, pull | Practice tearing paper<br>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<br>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<br>Progress to thicker paper e.g. sugar paper for easier handling<br>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<br>Move, twist, turn, pivot<br>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,                                 |  |