

# Scissor Skills

## Why are they Important?

Cutting helps children build up the little muscles in their hands with the open and close motion of the scissors. Cutting encourages children to use their hands and eyes together and both sides of their body at the same time. These skills are really important in your child's development as it helps with everyday activities including brushing teeth, using cutlery, managing zippers and buttons, writing, drawing, and throwing and catching a ball.

## Starting at the Beginning

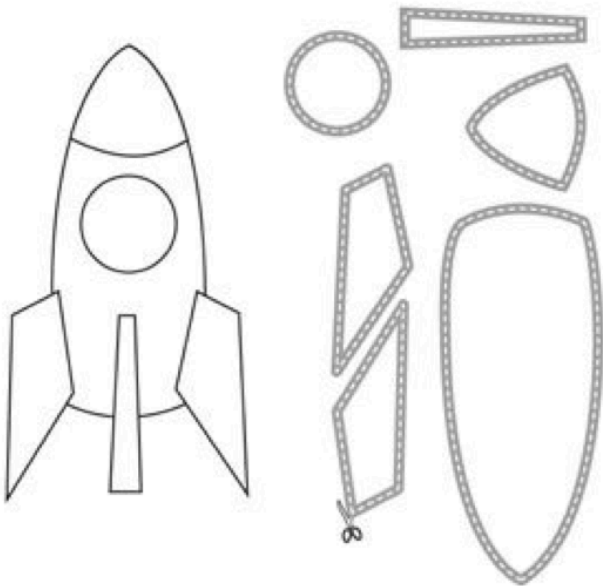
Using scissors can be challenging and it can be helpful to know where to start! Skills tend to progress in the following order:

1. Snipping
2. Short straight lines
3. Long straight lines
4. Curvy lines
5. Square
6. Triangle
7. Circle
8. Complex shapes



## Helpful Tips

- Thumbs up! Use a sticker on the child's thumb to help remind your child to keep the thumb facing upwards while cutting
- Make cutting activities fun and engaging for your child by incorporating an interesting character such as robots, rockets, animals or movie characters
- Make a cutting path with stickers for your child to follow such as train tracks
- Have regular brain breaks that involve active movement to keep your child's engine running "Just Right"
- If your child has difficulty using scissors it can be helpful to get the child to use other tools in their hands that have an open and close mechanism such as tongs, tweezers or spray bottles. Otherwise, consider alternative scissors such as spring-loaded or closed loop scissors.



These are some activities that incorporate the open and close mechanism needed for cutting.

