

THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESSION OF SCISSOR SKILLS

By 2 years of age:

Can make one snip at a time

By 3 years of age:

Can snip forward along a line (not continuous motions forward)

By 4 years of age:

Can cut 6 inches along a straight line ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide) after demonstration and without assistance, staying within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the line

Can cut 6 inches along a curved line ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide) after demonstration and without assistance, staying within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the line

Can cut out a circle of at least 6 inches in diameter without assistance, staying within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the line

By 5 years of age:

Can cut out a square at least 3 inches wide without assistance, staying within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the line

Can cut out a triangle at least 3 inches wide without assistance, staying within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the line

Can cut out pictures after demonstration that are at least 6 inches in length and width and whose outlines are no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, while following the general shape

By 6 years of age:

Can cut cloth for at least 6 inches using sharp scissors under close, careful supervision

By 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of age:

Can cut out complex pictures by following the outlines without assistance