

# Cutting Challenge

## Primary Objectives

7a. Uses fingers and hands

## Why It's Important

As children learn to coordinate their eye and hand movements, cutting with scissors is one of the most complex tasks that they begin to explore. Providing your child with the opportunity to practice this useful fine-motor skill supports his growing physical development.

## Materials

Plastic tub; several scraps of paper in a variety of colors, textures, and sizes; toddler-sized safety scissors

## What You Do

1. Put the scrap paper and scissors in the plastic tub.
2. Invite your child to participate in a cutting activity. Explain that he may practice cutting paper using the paper and scissors in the tub.
3. If needed, help him position the scissors correctly in his hand. You may need to hold his hand and practice the cutting motion until he feels comfortable. *This is the way we hold scissors when we are ready to cut. Then we move our hand like this: open, close, open, close.*
4. Once your child has a basic understanding of the grip and motion of the scissors, allow him to practice cutting independently. Talk about safety rules when using scissors. Describe what your child is doing. *I see you are cutting the yellow paper into very small pieces.*
5. Allow your child to continue for as long as he is interested. If you have space in your home, keep the materials together in the plastic tub and encourage your child to practice his cutting from time to time.