

Reception EYFS: Autumn Term: Introduction to Scissor Skills	Reception EYFS: Spring Term Developing Control and Accuracy	Reception EYFS: Confidence and Creative Application
Term Focus: To introduce scissor use safely, develop basic grip and hand strength, and begin making purposeful snips and straight-line cuts. Focus is on building confidence and coordination using both hands.	Term Focus: To develop cutting control and coordination through increasingly complex tasks, encouraging independence and accuracy. Children build strength, turn paper independently, and cut along curved and zigzag lines.	Term Focus: To refine control, accuracy, and independence with scissors so children can cut complex shapes and use scissors confidently across the curriculum, preparing them for Key Stage 1.
Aims: • Develop basic fine motor strength and hand–eye coordination. • Introduce safe scissor use. • Build confidence and curiosity around cutting.	Aims: • Cut along a straight or curved line with control. • Increase stamina and focus when cutting. • Develop coordination between both hands (helper hand holds material).	Aims: • Cut out more complex shapes and apply skills in independent tasks. • Use scissors as part of designing and creating. • Select and use scissors confidently during self-initiated play.
Key Vocabulary: Open, close, snip, cut, paper, grip, thumb, fingers, line, straight, safe	Key Vocabulary: Curve, zigzag, corner, line, pattern, accuracy, grip, rotate, smooth	Key Vocabulary: Design, combine, create, decorate, detailed, edge, adjust, rotate, control
Activities & Resources: • Snipping strips of paper, straws, and playdough • Cutting playdough sausages or rolled-up paper • Introduce loop-handled and spring-loaded scissors • Practice holding scissors correctly (thumb on top)	Activities & Resources: • Cut along thick black lines (straight, wavy, zigzag) • Cut around shapes (basic circles, squares) • Cutting crafts (make a crown, collage shapes, cut petals for a flower) • Use both hands together to manage paper and scissors	Activities & Resources: • Cut out parts to assemble something (e.g., puppets, models) • Independent collage-making with various materials • Cutting for purpose (e.g., making signs, tickets, wrapping) • Introduce cutting different textures: fabric, felt, thin card
Enhancements for Continuous Provision: • Add snipping trays with cuttable materials (straws, wool, paper) • Tuff trays with soft or wide materials to build confidence • Fine motor strengthening tools: tweezers, pegs, threading	Enhancements for Continuous Provision: • Pre-prepared cutting lines on paper in mark-making area • Cutting station with printable cutting sheets and glue sticks • Themed crafts that involve cutting (e.g., masks, animals, houses)	Enhancements for Continuous Provision: • Design area with choice of paper types, scissors, glue, shapes • Encourage cutting for real outcomes (cards, decorations, props) • Labelled materials: “Cut me”, “Make a shape”, “Create a model”

Assessment Opportunities: • Can the child hold scissors with correct grip? • Are they developing control while opening and closing scissors? • Do they show awareness of safety?	Assessment Opportunities: • Can they follow a line when cutting? • Are they using both hands effectively? • Do they maintain a steady grip and cutting motion?	Assessment Opportunities: • Can they cut accurately around complex shapes? • Are they independently choosing scissors to support their ideas? • Can they explain how they used scissors to create or solve a problem?
EYFS Areas of Learning Covered: Physical Development (Fine Motor) Hold and use tools competently, safely, and confidently. Develop small motor skills to use scissors and other tools with control. Expressive Arts & Design Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools, and techniques. Use tools to shape, assemble and join materials. Communication and Language Engage in back-and-forth conversations. Use new vocabulary in context while discussing techniques or creations.		
Prompts and Questions for Adults During Scissor Skills EYFS Encouraging Safe Use “Where should your thumb go?” “Can you show me how we carry scissors safely?” “Which way should the blades face when we walk?” “Let’s check how you’re holding the scissors—can you see your thumb at the top?” Supporting Fine Motor Development “Can you open and close the scissors like a crocodile?” “Try squeezing slowly—what happens?” “Let’s see how strong your fingers are today!” “Can you snip this strip into small pieces?” Building Confidence and Independence “Have a go—what do you think will happen?” “What could you do if it’s tricky?” “Would you like to try that on your own first?”		

"You're getting better each time—what changed?"

Developing Accuracy and Control

"Can you stay on the line?"

"What shape are you cutting around?"

"What do you notice about the corners?"

"How do you turn the paper when you cut curves?"

Promoting Creativity and Purpose

"What are you making with your cut-out shapes?"

"Could you cut this to fit your collage?"

"What could you design with these pieces?"

"Which shapes will you need to cut out for your picture?"

Encouraging Language and Interaction

"Can you tell me what you're cutting?"

"What's your plan for this piece?"

"Can you help a friend by showing them how you hold the scissors?"

"Which part did you find easy? Which part was tricky?"

Problem Solving and Reflection

"What could you do if the paper bends?"

"How can we fix it if it rips?"

"What's another way you could hold the paper to help?"

"If the scissors don't cut well, what should you check?"