SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Beginners Scissors Sampler Kit

(Adapted Art Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
This exciting kit features six pairs of learning scissors: Blunt Tip Children's Scissors, Kidi Beginner Safety Scissors (that only cuts paper, not hair or clothing), Mini OT Scissors, Red Mini Loop Scissors, Self-Opening Safety Scissors, and the original Fiskars For Kids Scissors.	 Purchasing Information Teaching Children to Use Scissors Safely Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Struggle with using standard scissors.
- Show an interest in cutting, but are not successful.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Improve fine motor skills.
- Practice hand-eye coordination and bilateral coordination (using both hands together).
- Work on visual-motor skills, which are crucial for activities like writing, dressing themselves, and other everyday tasks.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Beginning scissor users should be supervised both for assistance in positioning scissors, and to ensure scissors are not used for cutting things they shouldn't. **Positioning** • If possible, the child should hold the scissors in one hand and the paper with the other	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • A DIY scissor practice box. • Wikki Stix • Yarn • Duct tape **Build It Up** • Build up handles of scissors with Wikki Stix, yarn, duct tape, etc. **Stabilize It**

(instead of someone else holding or guiding the paper).
- Both scissors and paper should be held with a "thumbs up" position.
- Place stickers on the child's thumbs to encourage thumbs up positioning of hand holding paper and hand holding scissors.

Alternate Positioning
- Have the child sit or kneel on the floor and cut paper taped to and hanging from the edge of a table so that the scissor tips are pointed to the ceiling in order to snip "up" the paper.

Basic Play/Use
- Demonstrate how to hold scissors: Show the child how to place their thumb in the top ring and their index and middle fingers in the bottom ring.
- Have children practice cutting paper and other objects.
- Start with straight lines, which are easier to cut than curved lines.
- Have children cut out shapes, patterns, and textures from magazines, fabric, or colored paper.

Extended Play/Use
- Sing an adaptation of the Open Shut Them song

  Open, shut them
  Open shut them
  Give a little snip, snip, snip
  Open shut them
  With thumbs up then
  Make those scissors clip, clip, clip

- Some children benefit by stabilizing their forearms against the edge of a table or resting their elbows on the table while holding their paper with one hand and cutting with the other.
- Some children may find it difficult to guide scissors on thin paper like regular printer paper. Providing thicker paper such as cardstock may be helpful.

Simplify It
- Start with simple 1-2 snip activities such as snipping a length of green paper to make "grass" for a collage picture.

Add Sensory Cues
- Wide, bright, high contrast lines might be easier for children to see as well as follow with their scissors.

Communication Support
- Provide and model cutting related vocabulary verbally, with a voice output device, or with paper-based communication support.

Additional Considerations:

- If scissors are difficult for the child to open and close, try spraying a little baking spray on them. If the blades are attached with a screw, try loosening the screw slightly.

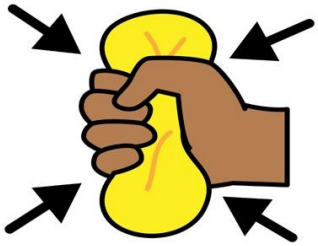
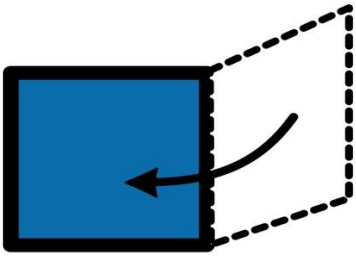
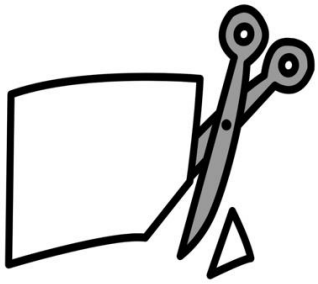
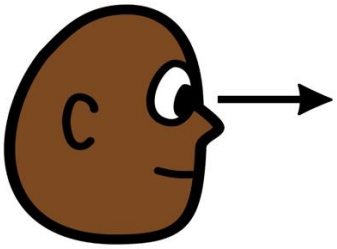
Resources:

- A DIY scissor practice box is a great way to help children develop fine motor skills and learn to use scissors safely. Create one by gathering a variety of materials like paper, cardstock, straws, yarn, pipe cleaners, craft foam, Play-Doh, fabric scraps, and other fun cutting options, and putting them into a box with kid-friendly scissors.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- CR: Artistic Engagement and Expression: Expresses ideas and feelings through visual art (1.a.).
- PD: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).
- CD: Problem-Solving and Reasoning: Uses increasingly complex strategies to solve problems (3.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Open 	Squeeze 	Close 
Cut 	Look 	Thumbs up 

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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