If you need help to understand this leaflet or would like it in a different language or format such as large print, Braille or audio, please ask a member of staff.

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NHS
Leicestershire Partnership
NHS Trust

Let me: cut with scissors



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What is this leaflet about?

The aim of this leaflet is to provide general advice on how to develop scissor skills.

Safety points

- Children with scissors should be supervised at all times.
- Scissors should be carried with the blades closed in the palm of the hand, with the handles pointed upwards.
- Scissors should be put down before moving onto the next activity.
- Children should be careful with paper to avoid paper cuts.

Where should we begin?

Using scissors is a complex skill. Children may not be able to cut accurately and independently for many years and require opportunities to practice at home and school. Children may need help with:

- Opening or closing scissors and holding them correctly.
- Using both hands together to work the scissors and paper.
- Following the direction of the lines.
- Organising the task.

There are alternative types of scissors available that may be helpful to try.

Ways to help

- Left handed scissors are available for children who prefer to use their left hand.
- Children who have difficulty opening or closing scissors can practice using self-opening scissors.
- Sitting well at a table and propping elbows onto the table can help with controlling scissors.
- Start with cutting narrow and small strips of paper using a snipping action to cut through the strip.
- Make sure children move the scissors in the right direction.
- Encourage children to cut away any excess paper.
- Help children to cut around curves by moving the paper with their non-scissor hand.
- Use paper or thin card to practice cutting.
- Adjust the paper to suit if children are left or right handed.

How can I make practice fun?

- Cut out pictures from old cards and make a collage or labels for presents.
- Cut pictures that children like, such as footballs or patterns and make them into a scrap book.
- Make and cut paper dolls or paper chains.