



Cutting Skills Classroom Activity Pack

Fine motor skills are controlled by the nervous system and involve the coordination of small muscle movements (usually in the hands and fingers) with the eyes. Fine motor skills emerge in infancy and develop throughout life, aiding in the growth of intelligence and capacity to learn. Math, language, and the ability to effectively use tools and technology are directly correlated to the fine motor system.

Little hands develop strength and dexterity by using a variety of items and tactile experiences. Using scissors to cut along a line takes focus, concentration, and lots of practice. Our Scissors Skills Activity Pack provides 20 sheets each of 13 unique designs - enough for everyone in the class to practice fine motor skills. Plus, there's a special bonus learning activity included with each design.

Designs and learning activities are leveled. Kids can practice straight cuts to make a match and pattern game or solve a puzzle. Try cutting some large curves and gentle angles, then assemble a ladybug, rainbow, or pumpkin. Finally, advance to small curves and tight angles to create a flower garden or lunar landscape.

Each pocket contains 20 sheets of each design, plus an instruction sheet with learning activities. These instruction sheets are written in very simple language – perfect for conveying basic information to preschoolers! – and includes the “cutting skill”

level. If an activity involves an assembly, one example is shown – many others are possible. Some activities will work best if construction paper and glue or glue sticks are available - recommended supplies are noted. Bonus Learning Activities include literacy, math, science, and social studies. Bonus Activities are designed to provide background information that will prompt discussion, encourage observation, and spark an interest in learning more.

All of the designs address the Colorations® Ten Pillars of Learning:

Critical Thinking	planning how to assemble a puzzle
Self Expression	each picture will be unique
Creative Thinking	using pieces in new and interesting ways
Motor Skills	cutting lines, curves, angles
Exploration	assembling pictures in different ways
Self Esteem	accomplishing goals by increasing skills
Social Interaction	working together and discussing ideas
Problem Solving	finding multiple ways to address a task

Cut out the labels below and insert them into the pocket tabs. As you do so, check out the designs and learning activities so you can easily select the best activity for your class.



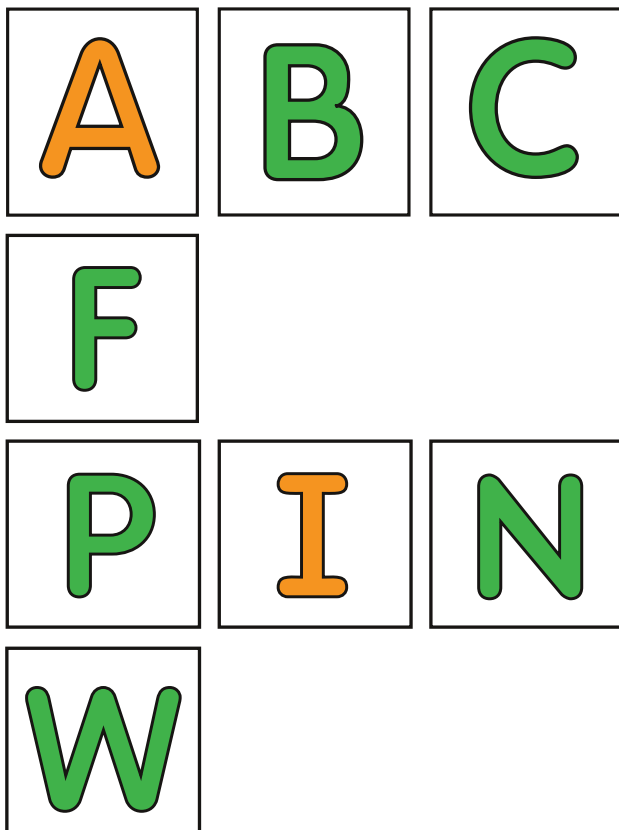


ABC's

Skill Level: Easy – straight lines

Supplies Needed: Scissors

Carefully cut the letters on the dotted lines. You will have 26 small rectangles - all the letters of the alphabet.



Literacy

Learning and Using Letters

Use your letters to learn the alphabet and play different games.

Put all the letters in order from A to Z. Say and point to each letter.

Use the letters to spell your name.

Did you notice some letters are green and some letters are orange? The green letters are called consonants. Usually consonants have only one sound.

The orange letters are called vowels. Vowels can have two or more sounds.

For example, in the word "can" the vowel "a" has a short sound. In the word "cane," the vowel "a" has a long sound - it sounds like the letter "a."

Try making words using the letters. Start with a word family like "at." Put a consonant like "b" in front of "at" to make the word "bat." Change the first letter to make a new word. Can you make cat, mat, sat, and rat?

Try starting with different word families like "in" or "ot."

Keep your letters in a small bag or envelope so you can use them over and over.



Leaves

Skill Level: Easy – straight lines

Supplies Needed: Scissors

Carefully cut the leaves on the dotted lines. You will have 24 small rectangles. Each rectangle will have a colorful leaf.

Lots of Leaf Games!

Leaf Match

Find all the leaves that are the same exact match. There will be 3 of each.

Find all the leaves that are the same color. There will be 6 red, 6 yellow, 6 orange, and 6 green.

Find the leaves that are the same shape. There will be 6 of each in 2 different colors. For example, there will be 3 red maple leaves and 3 green maple leaves.

Pick 2 of each leaf and turn them over. Turn over one rectangle at a time and try to make a match.

Math

Leaf Patterns

Make a pattern with your leaves!

Try an A-B pattern like orange oak-yellow oak-orange oak-yellow oak.

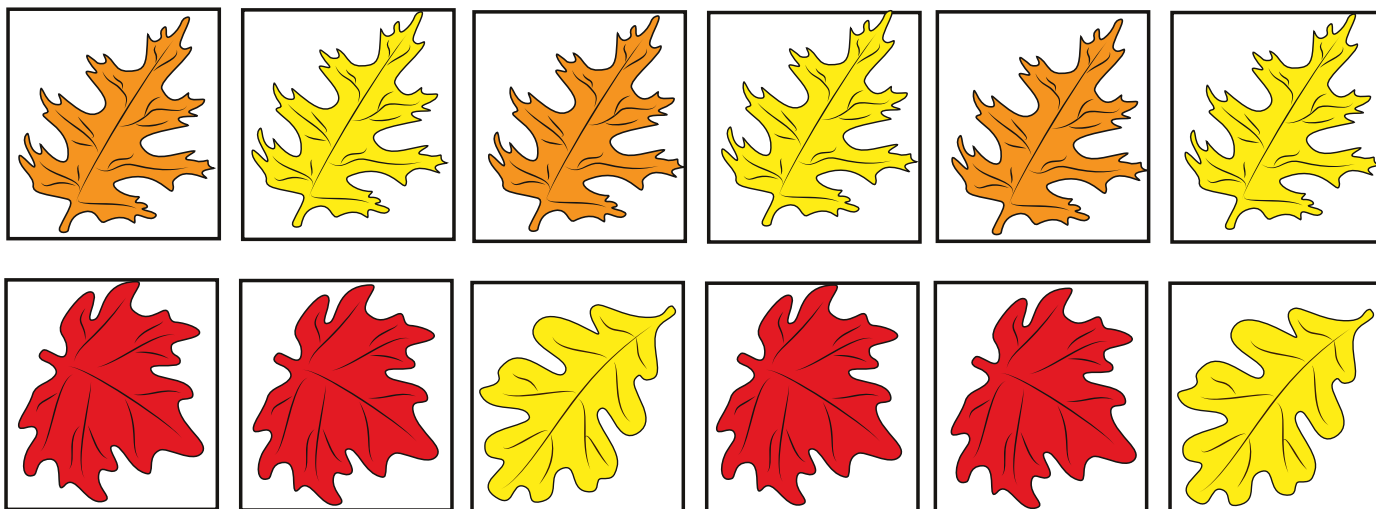
Try a more challenging A-A-B pattern like red-red-yellow, red-red-yellow.

Make up your own pattern!

What Doesn't Belong?

Pick out 3 leaves that are the same, and 1 leaf that is different. For example, you can pick 3 green birch leaves and 1 orange birch leaf. The orange one is a different color.

Make it more challenging! Pick out 2 red maple leaves, a green maple leaf, and a red oak leaf. The green maple leaf is a different color. The red oak leaf is a different shape. Both answers are correct.





Puppy Puzzle

Skill Level: Easy – straight lines

Supplies Needed: Scissors, construction paper, glue or glue stick

Cut out the 4 pieces on the dotted lines. When you have the 4 pieces cut out, move the pieces like a puzzle. When you have a picture of a puppy, glue the pieces down on a piece of construction paper.

Learn About Pets

Many people have pets. Some animals make good pets. Dogs, cats, birds, and bunnies can be good pets. Some people have turtles and fish for pets. Wild animals like tigers, elephants, and monkeys would not make good pets.



Science

It is important to take good care of your pet. All pets need food and water just like people. Different pets need different food. Dogs and cats like special dry or wet food. Birds eat seeds. Bunnies like dry food called pellets. Most pets like treats too - dogs especially like meaty bones. A good pet owner gives their pet the right kind of food and treats. What kind of treats would a cat, bird, or bunny like?

All pets need exercise just like people. Dogs and cats like to run and jump. Birds like to stretch their wings. Bunnies like to hop. A good pet owner makes sure their pet gets exercise. How can a pet owner let their pet exercise?

Sometimes pets visit a doctor just like people. A pet doctor is called a veterinarian, or vet. The vet checks the pet's health and gives vaccines.

Sometimes vets will prescribe medicine. Vets help keep pets healthy. How does a doctor help keep people healthy?

Pets need love and affection just like people. A pet can be almost like a friend. A good pet owner helps their pet feel safe and happy. They can be kind to their pet. They can talk to their pet. They can brush and pet their pet. How can you help someone feel happy?



Fruits

Skill Level: Intermediate – straight lines, curves

Supplies Needed: Scissors

Cut out the orange, lemon, and lime on the dotted lines. Cut the circles first, then cut the straight lines.

Citrus Fruit Fun

Patterns

When you have all the pieces cut out, mix them up and then sort them so that you have orange, yellow, and green pieces. Use the pieces to make different patterns.

Try a simple A-B pattern, like orange-lemon, orange-lemon.

Try an A-B-C pattern like lime-lemon-orange.

Make up your own pattern.

Math

Counting

Move the pieces so that you have a complete orange, lemon, and lime.

Which fruit is the biggest? The smallest?

How many pieces are in each fruit?

Can you count the 8 pieces in the orange?

If you ate one piece, how many pieces are left? What if you ate one piece of the lemon?

Pretend to eat different pieces of the fruits and count how many pieces are left.





Street Signs

Skill Level: Easy – Intermediate – straight lines, curves, angles

Supplies Needed: Scissors, straws or craft sticks, tape, modeling dough

Cut the signs out on the dotted lines.

You can make signs you can use with your blocks and cars. Tape a straw or craft stick to the back of each sign. Push the end of the straw or stick into a ball of modeling dough. Now your signs will stand up.

Street Signs in Your Community

Do you know what your street signs mean? There is a Stop Sign, Railroad Crossing, School, Hospital, No Parking, and 2 One Way signs.

Social Studies

Some signs help keep us safe. What sign tells us to stop? What sign tells us that children are nearby? What sign tells us a train might be coming? What might happen if we did not obey the signs?

Some signs give us information. What sign tells us a direction? What sign tells us "do not park here?" What sign tells us a hospital is nearby?

Look for other signs in your community. You might find a sign that tells the speed limit. You might find a sign with the name of a street. You might find signs with arrows, animals, or other pictures. What do the signs tell you?

Use your signs with your blocks and cars. Pretend your cars are moving on a street. Practice slowing down, stopping, finding a parking spot, and going in the right direction. Are you a safe driver?





Ladybug

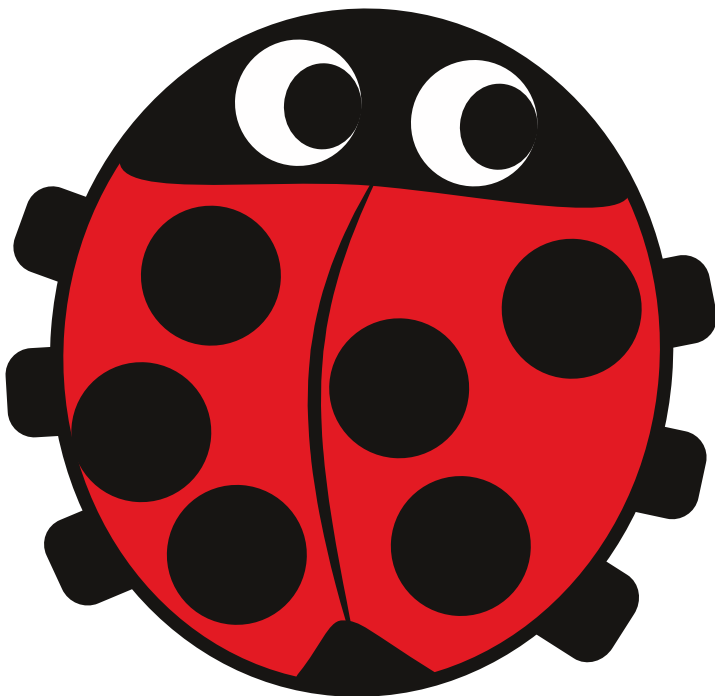
Skill Level: Intermediate – curves, angles, small pieces

Supplies Needed: Scissors, glue or glue stick

Cut the ladybug and all the parts on the dotted lines. It is easiest to cut out the body first, then the 6 black dots, and finally the 2 eyes.

Glue the 6 black dots to the ladybug's body.
Glue the 2 eyes to the ladybug's head.

Use the ladybugs to decorate your classroom!



Science

Learn About Insects

A ladybug is a special kind of animal called an insect.

All insects have 6 legs. Can you count the 6 legs on your ladybug?

All insects have 3 body parts – a head, thorax (middle) and abdomen (bottom or end). Many insects also have wings. Your ladybug has red wings that cover up the thorax and abdomen.

Try to find other insects. You can look outside or look for pictures. You might be able to find insects like ants, bees, and grasshoppers. Some insects are beautiful, like butterflies. Some insects are camouflaged, like walking sticks. Some insects can sting or hurt people, like mosquitos.

Some insects can damage plants. They eat flowers, vegetables, and other plants. Farmers and gardeners do not like this. But they like ladybugs. Ladybugs eat insects that eat plants. Ladybugs help keep gardens healthy and beautiful.



Pumpkin

Skill Level: Intermediate – curves, angles, corners

Supplies Needed: Scissors, glue or glue stick

Carefully cut out the big pumpkin, the 2 eyes, nose, and mouth on the dotted lines.

Arrange the eyes, nose, and mouth on the big pumpkin. You can turn the pieces around or even upside down. When you like how your picture looks, glue the pieces onto the pumpkin.



Science

Learn About Pumpkins

A pumpkin is a kind of a squash with a tough outer rind. People use pumpkins to make lots of different things – pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup, pumpkin bread, pumpkin cookies, pumpkin ice cream. You can even roast and eat the seeds.

There are many kinds of pumpkins. Pumpkins come in different colors. Some are green, some are yellow, some are white, some are brown, and some are orange. Pumpkins grow on long, strong vines along the ground. Pumpkins are different sizes. The smallest pumpkins are about the size of an apple – they can fit in your hand. The biggest pumpkin ever was 5 feet high and weighed more than 2,000 pounds. That's about as big as person, and as heavy as a car!

In the fall, lots of people like to decorate or carve designs or faces in pumpkins and then make them glow with little lights placed inside. When a pumpkin is decorated or carved like this, it is called a jack o'lantern.



Hearts and Stars

Art

Skill Level: Intermediate – curves, angles

Supplies Needed: scissors, craft stick or straw about 12" long, 4 pieces of string or yarn 4" – 8" long, tape or glue

Cut out the hearts and stars. Find 2 hearts that are the same size. Tape one end of a piece of string or yarn to the white side of one heart. Then put the other heart of the same size on top so that the colors are on the outside and the string is in the middle – like a sandwich.

Do the same thing with the other hearts and the stars. You will have 4 "sandwiches" – 2 hearts and 2 stars.

Tie or tape the other ends of the strings to the stick or straw. Hold up the stick. The hearts and stars should balance, swing, and turn. If they don't, you can move the strings.

Learn About Mobiles

You just made a special kind of art work called a mobile. A mobile is a sculpture that balances and moves. Mobiles are made with one or more rods. Objects hang from the rods. The objects balance each other, and move without touching. An artist named Alexander Calder was famous for making mobiles. Some of his mobiles are as big as a room.



Mobiles are popular in nurseries where they hang over cribs. Babies like to watch the colorful moving objects. Wind chimes are mobiles. When the objects move, they make beautiful sounds.



Rainbow

Skill Level: Intermediate – curves, thin pieces

Supplies Needed: Scissors, blue construction paper, glue or glue sticks

Cut out the 6 rainbow pieces (arcs) and 2 clouds on the dotted lines. Try to make smooth curves when you cut the arcs.

Arrange the pieces on the construction paper so the arcs fit together. Carefully glue down the 6 arcs. Finally glue the clouds. You can add some cotton to the clouds to make them fluffy.

Learn About Rainbows

Did you ever see a rainbow in the sky? A rainbow is made when light “bends.”

All the colors of the rainbow are always in light. They are all mixed together, so light looks white or clear.

Science

But some things can make light “bend.” When light bends, the colors separate and spread out. Then you can see the colors red, orange, yellow, green blue, and purple.

Water can make light bend. After it rains, there are still drops of water in the air. When light shines through the water drops, you can see a rainbow in the sky. Try sprinkling water from a hose. Can you make a rainbow?

Scientists have a tool called a prism. It is a special piece of plastic that looks like a triangle. When light shines through a prism, the prism bends the light and you can see a rainbow.





Gingerbread Man

Skill Level: Advanced – curves, thin pieces

Supplies Needed: Scissors, glue or glue stick

Cut out the Gingerbread Man on the dotted lines. Next cut out the buttons and the candy canes. Finally cut out the icing swirls.



Literacy

Use the buttons, candy canes, and icing swirls to decorate your Gingerbread Man. You can measure and cut the icing swirls to fit the Gingerbread Man's arms or legs. You can use the swirls to make a hat, belt, or collar. You can decorate any way you want.

When you are happy with how your Gingerbread Man looks, glue the pieces down.

The Gingerbread Man

Read the story of The Gingerbread Man. Encourage the children to act out scenes by moving their decorated Gingerbread Man to run fast.

Retelling stories and acting out scenes is a wonderful way to foster literary comprehension. When everyone is familiar with the story, invite the children to retell it in their own words. Prompt them to describe what happens first, next, and so on. As above, have them act out scenes with their decorated Gingerbread Man. Some children may also be interested in identifying literary elements such as characters and the setting.



Flower Garden

Skill Level: Advanced – curves, small pieces

Supplies Needed: Scissors, 9" x 12" construction paper, glue or glue sticks

Cut out the green grass on the dotted line. Next cut out the colorful flowers. Finally cut out the leaves and stems.

Arrange your pieces on a sheet of construction paper. When you are happy with your picture, glue the pieces down.

Learn About Plants

Most plants grow from seeds. When the seed is moist, it will sprout. The sprout will grow into a seedling. The seedling will grow into a mature plant. The mature plant has different parts.

Science

Roots grow underground. Roots hold the plant in the soil. Roots also find water in the soil and move it to the stem. The stem holds the plant up and moves water to the leaves. Leaves grow on the stem. Usually leaves are green. A chemical called chlorophyll in the leaves uses water and sunlight to make food for the plant.

As the plant grows, it makes a flower with petals. Flowers can be big or small, bright or dull. Finally, the plant makes seeds. The flower protects the seeds so they can mature. The mature seeds can grow into another plant.

Find the stems, leaves, and flower petals on your flower garden. Look for other plants and identify the parts.





Fish

Skill Level: Advanced – curves, tight angles, small pieces

Supplies Needed: Scissors, glue or glue sticks

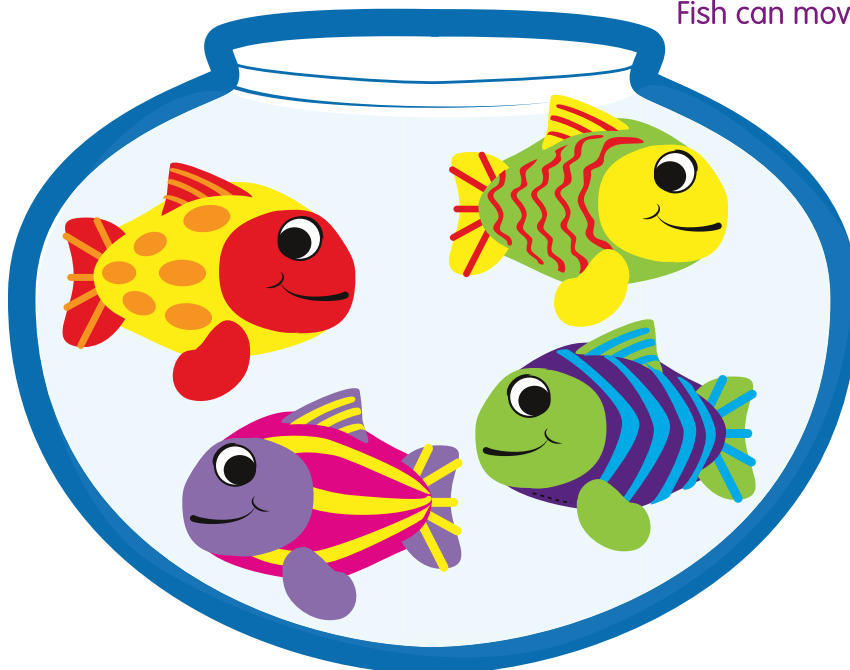
Cut out the fish bowl on the dotted lines. Next, cut out the fish.

Arrange the fish in the fish bowl. You can put one fish behind another fish. You can have the fish swim up and down or sideways.

When you like your picture, glue the fish in the fish bowl.

You can draw sand or rocks in the bottom of the fish bowl.

You can add some yarn or cut paper to look like seaweed.



Science

Learn About Fish

Fish are special animals. All fish live in water. Some fish live in the ocean, some fish live in lakes and ponds, some fish live in rivers and streams.

Fish are different sizes and shapes. The biggest fish is the whale shark - it's as big as a bus. The smallest fish is the infant fish - it's about as big as your fingernail.

A fish's body is covered with scales. Scales could have patterns like spots or stripes, or no designs at all. They could be shiny or dull. They could be bright or dark. Scales help protect the fish.

Fish have fins. Most fish have a dorsal fin on the top, pectoral fins on the sides, and a tail fin. Fish can move their fins. The fins help fish swim.

Fish have gills. The gills are on the sides of their bodies. Gills take oxygen from the water so fish can breathe. Fish cannot breathe if they are not in water. People cannot breathe if they are under water.



Space

Skill Level: Advanced- small pieces, tight curves, sharp angles

Supplies Needed: Scissors, 9" x 12" black construction paper, glue or glue sticks

Blast off to a galactic adventure!

Carefully cut out the rocket, planets, stars, and moon surface along the dotted lines.

Arrange the pieces on a piece of black paper. When you are happy with your arrangement, glue the pieces to make a space scene.

You can even add some glitter to make the stars sparkle. You can make a bigger space scene if you use larger paper.

Science

Learn About Space

Planets travel around the sun. All the planets are different. Our Earth is one planet.

Mars is a planet that looks red. It has ice at the top and bottom. Saturn is a blue color. It has rings of icy crystals. Jupiter is a giant planet. It has a huge storm called the Giant Red Spot.

Many planets have moons. Moons have mountains and craters. Earth has one moon. Some planets have more than 10 moons. Look at the moon at night. Can you see dark and light areas?

Stars can be different colors. All stars are very hot, but some are hotter than others. Red and yellow stars are the coolest. Blue stars are the hottest. Our sun is a yellow star. Look for stars at night. Can you see different colors?

