Scissor skills vary greatly with age. At age three, most children are just starting to hold scissors and can make single snips. At age four, most children are able to cut a 6” strip, but maybe not always on the line. At age five, most children are able to cut out simple shapes, like a rectangle or a square. When teaching kids scissor skills, try having them hold the paper rather than cutting with the paper on the table. Show kids how to hold the scissors with their thumb in the small hole and cut with the thumb facing up.

**Paper Fringe**
Have kids cut small snips around all four sides of a piece of paper. Kids should hold the paper in their hand and move the paper as they snip. Be sure they are holding the scissors properly (thumb up).

**Rainbow Art**
You will need several colors of construction paper, a paper plate, and glue for this activity. If you have construction paper in the colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple), that would be great, but any color rainbow will work. Have kids cut small pieces, about ¼”, of each color construction paper to use as mosaic tiles for their picture (any shape will do). Next, cut the paper plate in half. Starting at the outer round edge of the plate, glue red pieces onto the paper plate to make a rainbow stripe about ½” thick. Next, glue orange pieces under the red in a ½” stripe. Continue with yellow, green, blue, and purple stripes to complete your rainbow.
Dough Face
Cutting dough is a good way for kids to practice scissor skills. Use color dough for this activity. Roll the dough flat, about ¼” thick. Use the color dough container or a drinking glass to cut out a circle about 2”–3” in diameter. Hold the circle in one hand and snip the dough along the top edge to make hair. Roll pieces of different color dough and cut small pieces off to make eyes, a nose, and a mouth. Now your dough face is done!

Building Muscles
An important part of building scissor skills is strengthening the muscles in the hand. Use salad tongs or tweezers to help build hand muscles. Use salad tongs to move pieces of popcorn (or grapes, nuts, or other small treats) from one bowl to another. Use tweezers to pick up pom poms or cotton balls. Put the pom poms on a plate. Have kids use tweezers to move them from the plate to a paper cup. Not only does this build hand muscles, it also builds hand-eye coordination. Ask your child to count each piece as you add it to the cup or bowl.