Cut and Turn: Four Practice Strips

Answers and adult support.

Prepare one strip at a time

An adult cuts around a dashed outer rectangle. The child follows the solid line from START at the left edge to FINISH at the right edge. Do not ask the child to prepare every strip before practising.

Four steps of progression

1. A straight path. 2. Two wide corners. 3. Four corners, down and back up. 4. A broad zigzag. Pause at corners and help the child turn the paper rather than twist their wrist. Stop at any comfortable stage.

Scissors and supervision

Use scissors appropriate to the child, with an adult present. Keep fingers clear of the cutting line and sit at a stable table. A child who is not ready for scissors can trace a path with a finger or tear along a straight guide instead.

There is no scored answer

Look for controlled opening and closing and attention to the solid path, rather than demanding an exact cut. A short session with one strip can be enough. Dashed outlines are adult preparation lines only.