

Cutting Strips

Sixteen strips ordered from a straight line to a corner, so your child learns scissors step by step, without ever needing to finish a picture.

3-5 years

Fine Motor Skills

16 strips

Round-tip scissors

What your child practices

Holding scissors means opening and closing one hand while the other advances the paper, two different motions at once. By isolating the difficulty on a narrow strip, your child no longer has to follow a complicated shape: they learn the motion alone first, and the line grows more complex on its own.

Prepare the material

1. Print the two sheets on plain paper this time: a strip that is too stiff discourages the hand.
2. Cut the strips apart one by one lengthwise, and sort them by level.
3. Set out a small tray for the scraps: putting them away is part of the activity.

Show once, then step back

1. Hand over the closed scissors, handle first, the way you would hand them to anyone.
2. Show it once: open, advance the paper with the other hand, close.
3. Give a straight strip and step back.
4. Don't hold the paper for them, don't guide their hand.

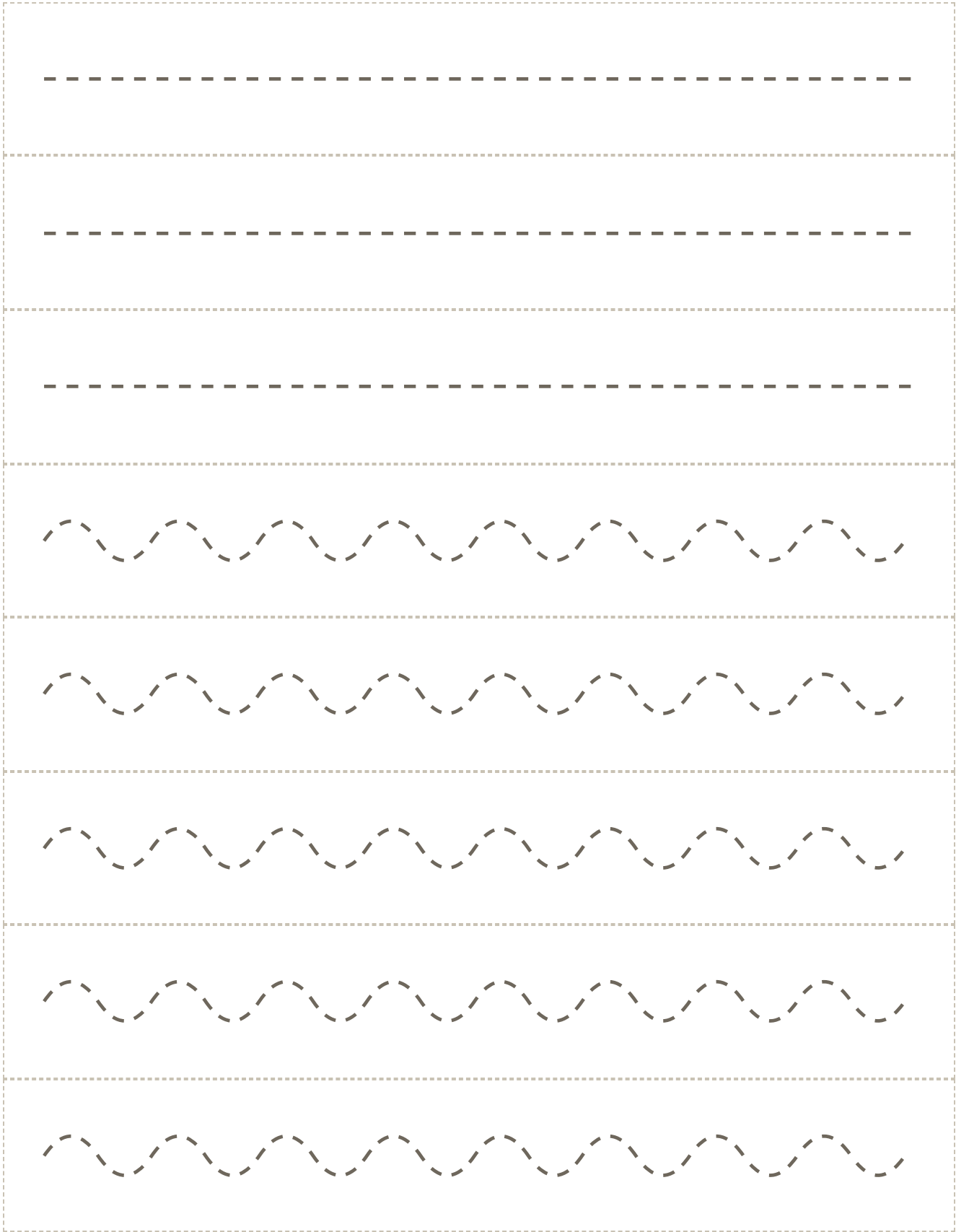
The built-in control of error. The dotted line stays visible on both pieces. Your child sees right away if they cut off to one side, and chooses on their own whether to start over on a fresh strip.

Once your child feels confident

- Move on to the wavy strip, then the zigzag, once the straight line is clean.
- Save the cut pieces for another activity, gluing or sorting by length.
- Cut a strip with no line at all, simply into two roughly equal pieces by eye.

Safety. Round-tip scissors sized to your child's hand, and an adult close by for the whole activity. The scissors go out of reach as soon as it's over, never in the toy box.

Level 1, the straight line. Cut the strips lengthwise, then your child cuts along the dotted line.



Level 2, the corner. The zigzag and the notch call for stopping the scissors, turning the page, then starting again.

