



How to choose scissors

Cutting out shapes is a central step in many art projects, but students differ in their ability to handle cutting tools. There are adapted scissors to fit hands of all sizes and provide students with varying levels of assistance. This guide suggests ways to find the best scissors for students to use independently, or to help maximize their comfort when working with another person.

Choosing and using scissors

A simple test

To select the scissors best suited to your students' capabilities, start by handing them a regular scissors with the handles facing them. If they move to grasp the scissors traditionally, let them position their fingers and cut a piece of paper. If manipulating regular scissors appears to be an issue, try using loop scissors. Position the student's hand over the handles of the scissors, then gently squeeze the scissors from behind the student's hand to demonstrate the "open/close" motion. See whether the student can independently make this motion or will need assistance.



Selecting the right adapted scissors

Start with the Maped Koopy Scissors, which support either a regular or adapted cutting experience. If the student struggles to complete the open/close cutting process independently, flip the adapted triangle on the scissors to make it perform a spring-back action.

If cutting still is not successful, try the small yet functional PETA Mini Easi-Grip Scissors with a spring-back open/close action, or the PETA Long Loop Easi-Grip Scissors for larger hands. For those who need more assistance, consider the PETA Push Down Adapted Scissor and PETA Push Down Table Top Adapted Scissors. Both engage the student and may enable their partial participation in the cutting process.

Practice in cutting shapes

- Make a doubletrack "railroad" pattern out of Wikki Stix as guides for the students to cut between.
- Place Wikki Stix next to areas to be left intact on papers or magazine images, to help students minimize inadvertent cuts into their desired shape or image.



Crimpers open up additional options

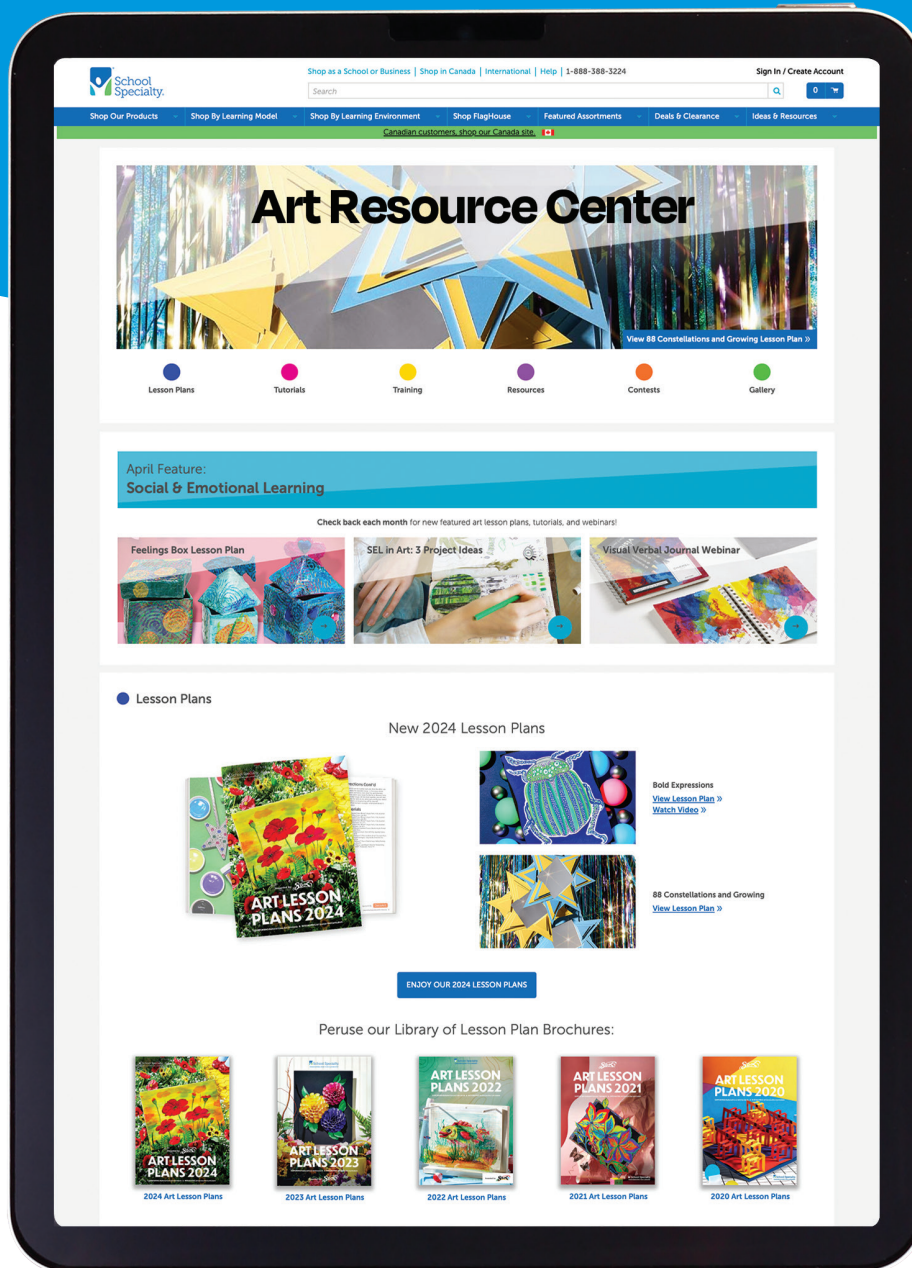
The Marvy Paper Crimpers create opportunities for students with physical challenges who may have limited abilities to manipulate papers in their art pieces. Students can crimp paper into waffle, bubble, or wave shapes helped by a peer or assistant. Students can hold the tool, turn the handle as the paper gets "crimped", or push the paper into the tool as they are physically able. Some students may not need assistance; for those who need a bigger grip, a clothespin or chip clip can be used to hold the paper.

Choose from these cutting tools and more

084838	School Smart® Loop Scissors
246432	Wikki Stix® Classroom Set of 600
1487814	PETA Self Opening Scissor, 5 in, Right-Handed, Blue
1487813	PETA Self Opening Scissor, 5 in, Left-Handed, Green
1487812	PETA Push Down Table Top Adapted Scissors, 5 in, Green/Blue
1487811	PETA Push Down Adapted Scissor, 5 in, Blue
1487815	PETA Mini Easi-Grip® Scissors, Stainless Steel Blade, Maroon/Red
1487809	PETA Easi-Grip® Kids Scissor, 7 in, Right-Handed, Blue
1487810	PETA Easi-Grip® Kids Scissor, 7 in, Left-Handed, Green
408863	Marvy® Corru-Gator Plastic Paper Crimper, Wave Pattern
1359308	Maped® Spring Assist Scissors 5 in, Set of 12

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