

The Whole Child

www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com

December

1. Gross motor skills

Arrange furniture or even boxes to form an obstacle course. Let your child crawl through the boxes or chairs etc. towards you.

2. Fine motor skills

Tactile perception/stereognosis: Blindfold your child and then hand your child a small ball or wooden block. She must feel it and determine its shape by telling you whether it can roll or whether it has corners or straight edges etc. She can use the words ball or block too of course!

3. Visual skills

Visual discrimination: Place three of the same colour and same shaped blocks, shapes or other small toys in front of your child, plus one that is an odd shape, say a triangle. Ask your child to point out the odd one. Teach him the meaning of the word 'different' if he doesn't already know this word. Repeat with a different set of shapes.

4. Auditory skills

Auditory Conceptualising: Read one or two nursery rhymes to your child, frequently repeating the same ones so that she becomes familiar with them. Read them rhythmically, emphasizing the rhyming words and encourage your child to join in or fill in the 'missing' word as you pause for her to complete a line. Read more about the many benefits of nursery rhymes at <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/preschool-songs-and-nursery-rhymes.html>

5. Mathematical skills

Counting Skills: Place three "sticks" building from construction blocks in front of your child. They should consist of three, two and one block respectively. Ask your child to build the same, copying the ones you built. While he does so, talk about the different sizes, using vocabulary like small, medium and large, shortest, longest etc. Count aloud from one to three too.

6. Language skills

Sequence of Events: Talk to your child about experiences in the past, present and future and ask her questions that will require her to use the past, present and future tenses. For example: What have we just been doing, what are we going to do next? Where did we go or where shall we go now?

7. Faith-building

If you celebrate Christmas, be sure to use this opportunity to explain the real reason for the festive season to your little ones. Although we do give gifts, we choose not to

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teach our children the myth about Santa, but rather to focus on the nativity story from the Bible. We enjoy listening to CD's with Christian Kids Christmas songs too.