

The Whole Child

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1. Gross motor skills

Balance: Draw a line at least a metre long on the ground and ask your child to walk heel-to-toe along the line.

2. Fine motor skills

Cutting: Encourage your child to cut with safety scissors. Make sure a left-handed child does not have to use right-handed scissors. Here are some ideas:

- Cut long strips of paper that you have prepared into shorter pieces.
- Cut a piece of paper in half along a line.
- Cut out shapes like big squares and circles drawn on paper.

3. Visual skills

Colour perception: Let your child build sticks from construction blocks using alternating colours. Encourage her to make her own patterns using the various colours.

4. Auditory skills

Auditory Closure: While tidying up or doing chores, whisper instructions to your child so that he must listen attentively.

5. Mathematical skills

Time: Talk about different times of the day such as this morning, this afternoon and tonight or this evening. Help your child to become familiar with the routines in your home at different times of the day and to be able to talk about them correctly.

6. Language and thinking skills

While looking at a picture book together, ask your child questions about the objects in the pictures. For example:

- What is that? *A broom*
- What do we use it for? *Sweeping the floor*
- Where do we keep it? *In the kitchen*

7. Faith-building

Read a Bible story to your child and then share how a lesson or an example can be learned from what was read. For example, in the story of the boy who gave his five loaves and two fishes, we can learn to be generous. Sometimes children struggle with sharing because they don't understand that they can bless others and be blessed themselves when they share.