

# The Whole Child

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## July

### 1. Gross motor skills

Draw a line with chalk on the concrete outside and show your child how to run up until that line and then do a long jump. Encourage him to see how far he can jump.

### 2. Fine motor skills

Encourage your child to play with wooden blocks. She should be able to build towers and maybe even try bridges, using one block to bridge the gap across two others below. Encourage her creativity.

### 3. Visual skills

Shape perception – While your child holds his hands behind her back, place a shape in his hands and let him guess what it is by feeling its form. Use a circle, square and triangle alternatively.

### 4. Auditory skills

Make some homemade music instruments together and play them to accompanying music. Here are some suggestions:

- shake a matchbox filled with matches
- shake a plastic bottle filled with rice, pasta, beans or buttons
- bang pots and pans, plastic bowls, empty tins, empty ice-cream containers or cake tins

### 5. Mathematical skills

Read a counting book together and count the objects represented by the pictures. Invent your own games using your book, for example ask how many red objects are on a page or how many blue pictures your child can see.

### 6. Language and thinking skills

Tell your child a true story from your life – an incident that happened to you or a family member while growing up, things that got you in trouble, how you got out of trouble, lessons learned or humorous stories that will entertain or teach your child.

### 7. Faith-building

Share your own prayer needs (age-appropriate ones of course) with your child and pray together. Perhaps you need healing, provision, wisdom or encouragement. Ask your child to pray for you or lead her in prayer and teach her how to pray for you.