

# The Whole Child

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## June

### 1. Gross motor skills

Body Awareness: Encourage your child to touch different body parts, eg. Head, shoulders, knees and toes, eyes, ears, mouth and nose. If you know the song "Head shoulders, knees and toes, then sing it too and teach your child to sing it."

### 2. Fine motor skills

Manual dexterity: Let your child begin to learn how to undo buttons. She should be able to undo about 3 large buttons. Let her try closing the buttons too.

### 3. Visual skills

Visual sequence: Place three or four different coloured construction blocks on a page. Ask your child to copy the pattern you created. Repeat the exercise with different patterns and take turns.

### 4. Auditory skills

Auditory discrimination: Teach your child the sounds associated with things or animals that are familiar to her eg. Moo, says the cow, tick-tock says the clock, cheep-cheep says the bird. Read books about farm animals and make their sounds.

### 5. Mathematical skills

Numerical relations: Use any household items to teach your child to make comparisons:

Which one is heavier /lighter

Wider/narrower

Fuller/emptier etc.

### 6. Language skills

General insight/Reasoning: While looking at busy picture books, play a yes or no game with your child, by asking questions about the pictures that he must answer: eg. Is this a cat? Is the girl happy?

Use objects or concepts that are familiar to your child.

### 7. Faith-building

When training your children, don't just focus on changing their behaviour. Teach them vocabulary that will help them understand what is going on in their hearts. Eg. Instead of saying - share that toy with your brother, tell your child to **'be kind and loving'**. Tell him that Jesus isn't happy when we are **selfish and won't share**.

Tell your child that whining is does not **show honour** to parents. A child must talk nicely to mom and dad to show them **respect**. etc