

The Whole Child

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May

1. Gross motor skills

Let your child climb into a pillow slip or large sack. Ask her to take small steps with her feet in the corners, while holding onto the top of the pillow case. She can also try jumping with both feet together in the style of traditional sack races!

2. Fine motor skills

Hand-eye co-ordination: Give your child a balloon and encourage him to keep patting it to keep it in the air. He should first use one hand and then the other.

3. Visual skills

Colour perception: Choose a picture book with colour pictures that are 'busy'. Pick an item from the page and describe it to your child. Say, "I see something that is red, white and blue. Can you guess what it is?" Take turns describing items or figures from the pictures.

4. Auditory skills

Choose a piece of classical music to listen to with your child from the website Classics for Kids at <http://www.classicsforkids.com>, say Flight of the Bumblebee by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. Ask your child whether or not he or she likes this piece of music. Why or why not?

5. Mathematical skills

Ask your child to set out the silverware at the table. Encourage her to count how many of the various items are needed. Play simple addition and subtraction games as you set and clear the table together.

6. Language and thinking skills

Auditory Conceptualizing: Play a rhyming games as follows:

I'm thinking of something that rhymes with box, inside our shoes we wear ... (socks).

I'm thinking of something that rhymes with cot, I cook food on the stove in a ... (pot).

I'm thinking of something that rhymes with nose, on my feet I have ten little ... (toes).

Let your child complete the missing word. Use only words with one syllable at this stage.

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7. Faith-building

Read your children Bible stories about mothers, such as Moses' mother, Hannah, the mother of Samuel or Mary, the mother of our Saviour. Discuss the different situations they faced and how they blessed their children and enabled them to fulfill the plans for their lives, despite the cost to themselves. Let your children know that our Father also has a special plan for each of our lives.