

# The Whole Child

[www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com](http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com)

## May

### 1. Gross motor skills

Balance: Plan an outing to a play park that has children's apparatus for swinging, climbing and hanging.  
Encourage your child to perform each activity.

### 2. Fine motor skills

Modelling with playdough: Make some play dough using the recipe at the bottom of the [Preschool Crafts](http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/preschool-crafts.html) page on my website at <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/preschool-crafts.html>. Show your child how to roll it into snakes (balls may still be too difficult!) Then let her cut the snakes into small chunks with a pair of scissors. Keep an eye on your child as she plays with the dough to avoid it being pressed into places it shouldn't be! The recipe is also follows below.

### 3. Visual skills

Visual discrimination: To develop Body Awareness, sit together in front of a mirror and discuss the two images you see. Talk about size, hair colour, clothing etc. Also let your child compare herself to a doll, teddy or any other toy character.

### 4. Auditory skills

Auditory memory: Read or tell your child a short story and then ask her questions about the major events of the story. eg. Who frightened Goldilocks? Who came to help the little girl?

### 5. Mathematical skills

Counting: Teach your child to count to three. Use real objects like fingers, blocks or apples. Two year olds can usually count to three but usually only comprehend the quantities 'one' and 'two'.

### 6. Language skills

Active Language Development: Using a set of toy shapes or some shapes cut from cardboard, begin to teach your child the names of the shapes. "This is a ...." and hold up the shape. Make more than one of the same shape and encourage your child to use the plural form too. "Here are some more..."

### 7. Faith-building

There is a saying that faith is caught and not taught. Make a conscious effort to show your child your faith in the Lord on a daily basis. Say 'Thank you' out loud when prayers are answered. Ask Jesus for healing when your child is hurt etc...Let them see that you have a relationship with One who is Unseen.

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Bible Reading: Continue with your Bible reading as part of your bed-time routine. Some families read from an adult Bible, but we enjoyed reading [The Beginners Bible](#).

## Play dough

The advantage of this recipe is that it does not require heating, so your children can help you measure, mix and knead it.

### Ingredients

3 cups flour  
4 tablespoons salt  
1 cup cold water  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon food colouring

### Method

1. Mix all the ingredient and knead into a firm dough.
2. Store the dough in an airtight container in the fridge when not in use, so that the dough can last for a few weeks.