

The Whole Child

www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com

November

1. Gross motor skills

Balance & Co-ordination: Let your child ride a scooter or push bike so that she learns to push herself forward. By age 3 she should be capable of riding a tricycle and pedal rhythmically.

2. Fine motor skills

Manual Dexterity: Encourage your child to wash his hands himself using soap and water. He should be able to rub and twist his hands in a washing motion.

3. Visual skills

Colour perception: Choose one colour and make a point of pointing it out and talking about it as you go through your day. For example, point out clothing, toys, food, paints, signage etc that you encounter in that particular colour.

4. Auditory skills

Teach your child some easy songs or rhymes, especially fingerplays as these will develop fine motor skills too. There are some listed at <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/rhymes.html#fingerplays>.

5. Mathematical skills

Numerical relations: using construction blocks, build sticks of one, two and three cubes respectively. Ask your child to copy your creations and encourage him to count the blocks as he builds the three different sized sticks. Talk about comparisons of size using words like long and short, bigger, biggest, small, large, medium etc.

6. Language skills

Avoid all baby talk with your children and instead teach them proper English. Don't be overly rigid and negative, just repeat any incorrect language with the correct language so that your children hear good language.

Eg. Child - Mom, did you see how I *runned*?

Mom - Yes, I saw how you *RAN*.

7. Faith-building

Teach your children, that although God hates sin, He never stays away from us and never stops loving us. Instead, it is our sin and shame that keeps us from coming before Him. Tell them that when we ask Jesus to forgive us that our sin and shame is washed away and we can come freely to God and climb up on his invisible lap and live in a loving relationship with him.