

The Whole Child

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October

1. Gross motor skills

Let your child creep and crawl and imitate different animals eg. Creep slowly like a tortoise, slide like a snake, quickly like a spider

2. Fine motor skills

Manual Dexterity: Encourage your child to construct horizontal and vertical rows using wooden blocks. Make a row of five blocks and ask her to copy your row. She should also be able to stack about 7 or 8 blocks vertically to make a tower. Later she should manage 10 blocks. Practice this activity regularly to develop sensory motor skills.

3. Visual skills

Spatial Relations: Ask your child to take a toy in her hand and place it behind her back, on her head, under her feet, next to her foot, in front of her, between her feet etc.

4. Auditory skills

Auditory memory: Place a few shapes, toys, cutlery or other small items in a heap on a low table about 5 steps away from your child. Ask her to fetch a specific object, for example, a blue triangle, or a teaspoon. Make the game more difficult by adding more objects to the pile.

5. Mathematical skills

Numerical Relations: Give your child three balls, each of a different size. Let her ask you which one you want. When you answer, 'the big one, the small one or the medium -sized one', she must toss you the correct-sized ball. You could repeat this game with blocks or other objects.

6. Language skills

Symbolising & Creativity: Encourage your child to play imaginatively with various objects. For example, water becomes make-believe tea, a box can be an oven or a wagon, a stick can be a sword or a fishing rod etc.

7. Faith-building

With Halloween approaching, think carefully about whether or not you wish to expose your children to the scary costumes that go along with this celebration.

If you are a Christian, meditate on these verses and share them with your little ones, if you feel it would be appropriate.

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Romans 16:19 *"I want you to be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil."*

1 Corinthians 10:11 *"Everything is permissible" - but not everything is constructive.*

Romans 12: 2 *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good pleasing and perfect will."*

1 Thessalonians 5:21 *"Test everything. Hold on to the good."*

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 *"Let no one be found among you who ...interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord..."*