

# The Whole Child

## Week 23

### Gross Motor Skills

Create 'stepping stones' for your child, either by pieces of folded newspaper on the floor, using old magazines, or perhaps drawing with chalk outside on the concrete. Encourage your child to jump from one to the next and move them further apart as she improves.

### Fine Motor Skills

Make some edible play dough together using this easy recipe. Allow it to stand a while before using it. It can last up to a week, but it will probably be eaten long before then!

1/3 part honey  
1/3 part peanut butter  
1/3 part powdered milk

### Auditory Perception

Listen to some lively, upbeat music and encourage your child to either clap her hands in time with the music, or play a home-made percussion instrument in time with the beat - hit a spoon on a bowl, bang cutlery together, shake a container with beans or rice inside it. etc.

### Language and Thinking

Play an association word game with your child. One person says a word and the other player must say as many others that she associates with that word. eg. you say 'water', you child says: bath, swim, drink, boat, lake, ocean, river, rain, etc. Take turns so that your child can learn new words from your associations.

### Visual Perception

Teach your child to play the card game, Snap. Divide a deck of cards between you. You each turn over the top card on your pack simultaneously. Continue until there are two cards of the same number. The first one to say 'snap' wins the pile of upturned cards. Continue playing.

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## Faith Building

Use this (with simplification if needed) as a fun way to pray with your children.

### THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER

**Philippians 4:6 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.