

The Whole Child

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Week 38

Fine Motor Skills

Give your child a long piece of ribbon or even a skipping rope. Ask her to hold it by one end and twist her hand in circles to make spirals with the ribbon. Then ask her to shake it back and forth so that it 'slithers' like a snake. Let her flick the ribbon into the air and catch the 'tail' of the snake with her other hand. This may take some practice. Encourage her to create other patterns with the ribbon or rope.

Auditory Perception

Teach your child some [action rhymes](http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/rhymes.html) and encourage her to do the actions too. <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/rhymes.html>

Language and Thinking Skills

Find a text-free storybook at the library or alternatively use a story book that your child does not know. Look at the pictures together and ask your child to tell you the story. Choose a book that lends itself to this kind of activity. Some titles:

[Goodnight Gorilla](#) by Peggy Rathmann (text free)
[A Boy, A Dog and A Frog](#), Mercer Mayer (text free)
[Harry the Dirty Dog](#), Gene Zion (text)

You can preview them at www.Amazon.com and www.Kalahari.net:

Visual Skills

Using coloured beads, construction blocks or coloured pegs on a pegboard or any other similar toys, ask your child to arrange repetitive patterns. Begin with simple combinations and let her enjoy success!

Mathematical skills

Demonstrate the concept of subtraction to your child. Begin with five items. Ask your child to tell you how many remain if you remove one. Now remove another item and repeat until none are left.

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Use [counting rhymes](#) like Ten Green Bottles or Five Little Speckled Frogs (lyrics are on my site) to reinforce this activity in a fun auditory fashion!

Faith Building

Proverbs 16: 7 "When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him."

There is nothing more unpleasant in a home than bickering and fighting, be it between parents or the children, yet I am sure it happens in all homes to some extent. This year my children learned this verse by heart, and it has helped to promote peace:

Proverbs 15:1 "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

We had some interesting discussions about it.

Here is a free printable chart with more relevant verses on this topic that you may find useful at times when you need to train your children to promote peace in your home:

http://www.doorposts.net/free_resources/peace_chart.pdf

Week 39

Gross Motor Skills

To create body awareness cut parts of the body from magazine pictures. Ask your child to arrange them in order from head to feet and paste them on paper. The parts need not match or be in realistic proportions. Talk about the relationship between the different size body parts. "This hand is smaller/bigger than the arm" etc.

Fine Motor Skills

Let your child play with wooden blocks. Wood has different textures than plastic and each type has its own smell too. She will learn to

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create representations of visual concepts as well as discover building techniques.

Auditory Perception

Play a listening memory game. If the weather is fine, you could go on a listening walk. Ask your child to listen and recall afterwards as many different sounds as possible. If you are indoors, sit quietly and see how many sounds she can hear. e.g. a computer humming or a fridge running, passing traffic, a bird or dog outside, wind, etc.

Language and Thinking Skills

Ask your child to close her eyes while you take her on an imaginary journey. You must both picture the words you describe. Take her on...

- A balloon ride over the city
- A hike through the bush
- A boat trip on a rough sea
- A truck trip through the desert to an oasis

Let her have a turn or help describe details too.

Visual Skills

Draw two identical shapes on a chalkboard, but leave one shape incompletely drawn for your child to complete. Begin with geometrical shapes like circles, squares, houses, then draw more complex ones, stick figures etc.

Faith Building

When next you see ants, use the opportunity to discuss diligence with your little ones.

Proverbs 6:6

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

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Proverbs 30:25

Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;

Sometimes training children to perform their chores and daily routines is tiresome for a mom. I've learnt the hard way, with hindsight, that what I sometimes thought was just childish irresponsibility and negligence was actually blatant rebellion. If a child can do a task well on one day, but not on another, you need to look at circumstances, but especially the attitude of the child's heart and deal with it appropriately, if necessary.

This chart has some useful verses for training children to be diligent:
http://www.doorposts.net/free_resources/gototheant.pdf