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**10 Things My Preschooler Taught Me**

**By Deborah Shelton**

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deborah@fiveminuteparent.com Word wrap to 60, (173 words)

10 Things My Preschooler Taught Me  
by Deborah Shelton

1. That no matter how many snails are lined up on your arm, there's always room for one more.
2. That chocolate ice cream stains on a white rug can be considered works of art if you squint hard enough.
3. That tissues are a waste of time, especially if you have a perfectly good shirt sleeve.
4. That ketchup smeared into television speaker holes, once dried, actually enhances the sound quality of cartoons.
5. That cold pizza is the fifth major food group.
6. That "butt" and "poop" are two of the funniest and most underrated words in the English language.
7. That when you're running late in the morning, every single sock in the house will have mysteriously disappeared.

## 10 Things My Preschooler Taught Me

8. That the only way to truly appreciate a Scooby–Doo movie is to watch it twice a day, every day, until the tape turns to black and white.

9. That your friends are your friends until they wipe a booger on your neck.

10. That when you're eating watermelon, clothing is optional.

Deborah Shelton is the author of *The Five Minute Parent: Fun & Fast Activities for You and Your Little Ones*. Visit *The Five Minute Parent* for fun rainy–day activities, family links, and a free email newsletter filled with craft ideas, guest articles, contests and so much more! <http://www.fiveminuteparent.com>

### **Preschool Activities**

**By Leilani Mairet**

Preschool activities are for children between the ages of two and five years of age, pre–kindergarten. Preschoolers should have a variety of different activities to encourage proper mental and physical development. Emphasis needs to be placed in the focus areas of both fine and gross motor development, dramatic play, pre–reading skills, pre–writing skills, critical thinking skills, and social skills, as well as others.

Fine motor skills should be incorporated into preschool activities. Fine motor skills are working with the small muscle groups and are the most forgotten. This will help define your child's writing skills, cutting skills, etc. in the future. Fine motor skills activities can include, sand and water play, cutting activities, placing objects into small containers and areas, hand puppet plays with songs and many others.

Gross motor skills should be incorporated into preschool activities. Gross motor skills are working with the large motor areas and are most often worked on. These activities can be achieved by playing on the playground, throwing and kicking a ball, jumping, skipping, hopping, and any activity that requires the use of your large muscle groups.

Dramatic play incorporated into your child's preschool activities will help nurture your child's development. Dramatic play encourages your child to be creative, think, and reenact situations and scenarios on their own intelligence level. Children should be given props and toys to help them reenact different events for their learning skills.

Pre–reading and pre–writing skills should be incorporated into your child's preschool activities. Some examples of these skills include reading to your child, reciting the ABC's, cutting with scissors, tracing lines with a pencil or crayon, and drawing and creating projects without lines. These pre–reading, pre–writing skills will help your preschooler develop the proper background for future life school skills.

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Critical thinking skills should be incorporated into your child's curriculum. Critical thinking skills will help your child become a problem solver in the future. This will help in the areas of both math and science as well as other areas. Let your preschooler figure out different options and strategies to get to the same result. Let them think about the consequences and actions of their decisions.

Social skills are one of the most overlooked strategies in the areas of preschool activities. social skills include playing with other children, however, the proper way to interact with children and other people should actually be taught. Appropriate behaviors need to be modeled and taught, how to share, how to take turns, how to say please and thank you, how to interact in a group, how to wait for their turn, how to be a gracious loser and a good winner, as well as many others.

In summation, preschool activities are a very important part of your child's growth and educational process. Proper planning and instruction as well as modeling will prepare your child for their educational accomplishments to come. Please choose preschool activities appropriately.

For more information about preschool activities please visit



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