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**Hand–Eye Coordination And Visual Discrimination Key To Literacy**

**By Deanna Mascle**

Sometimes the best thing you can do for your child's early literacy development is simply to let them play. Turn off the TV and anything battery operated then let your child pick up their toys, build blocks or duplos, or manipulate puzzles or game pieces. Not only are you giving your child the gift of childhood, something we so often fail to do in today's hectic, achievement–oriented world, but you are actually helping them build skills that are key to learning to read and write.

Hand–eye coordination is a necessary skill for written language and the best way to help your child develop this skill is to let them play with toys and activities that involve looking at, using, and discriminating a number of elements. Puzzles are obviously a great activity for this but so are manipulative toys such as blocks, duplos, and magnetix.

My son just spent over an hour this evening playing dominos with his father — OK they weren't so much playing as setting up complex patterns and then knocking them down — but I didn't tell them they were engaged in a preliteracy activity. They were just having fun together.

Studies have shown that spending time on hand–eye coordination activities improves children's ability to learn to read and lessens the difficulty they face during the process. In fact engaging in a variety of craft activities, which most kids love, can be very beneficial so add play dough, stickers, and glue sticks to your list of educational supplies.

Research shows that early practice of hand–eye coordination activities reduces the risk for reading difficulties.

**ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE**

Puzzles help develop hand–eye coordination because learning to control hands and fingers according to information received from sight is a coordination skill that aids children in early attempts at reading and writing. Determining out which piece goes where, working to fit pieces into place by making adjustments, and seeing a sequence develop in an organized pattern can be a great learning experience as well as very satisfying for children.

## Hand–Eye Coordination And Visual Discrimination Key To Literacy

Puzzles, matching games, and the like are also important to help children learn visual discrimination. Visual discrimination is the ability of the brain to quickly tell the difference among visually similar letters, like "p," "b," and "q" or between words such as "was" and "saw." Students with difficulty making these distinctions often struggle with learning to read, write, and spell. Playing games, engaging in activities, or with toys that help children discriminate among similar objects can be fun for the child and help them master an important preliteracy skill. My son loves to help his father sort change before rolling it to be deposited at the bank. Sure we could use an electronic sorter but our son loves to engage in the activity and it is a valuable learning experience for him.

Visual discrimination can often be learned with your child's existing toys. Matchbox cars, dolls, and action figures all offer the opportunity for your child to learn visual discrimination.

Encourage children to work their wrist and finger muscles as well as work on their coordination and

small–motor skills to help prepare them for the handwriting practice in their future. Activities to help with these goals include legos and other building sets, playdough, puzzles, pegboards, beads and other table toys. These fun, natural activities help children improve their cognitive and fine motor skills without frustration or boredom.

My son engages in many activities every day that encourage hand–eye coordination and visual discrimination. I don't suggest the activities to him. I make the toys and manipulatives available to him and he chooses them on his own. The activities vary he may go an entire week building and rebuilding his wooden train set every day and then the next week his magnetix set dominates his play time. Some days he plays with both together and pulls in his duplos and wooden blocks for added fun. It doesn't matter to me which activity he chooses because I know he is having fun, challenging his imagination, and learning.

Deanna Mascle is the publisher of

<http://PreschoolersLearnMore.com>

. Visit for more tips and resources

for teaching your preschooler including

<http://TeachYourChildTheAlphabet.com>

## **Is A Higher Auto Insurance Rate For Men Twenty Five And Below Discrimination?**

**By Mark Dodd**

What makes a man below 25 so attractive? Is it the angst to make it big in life? Is it the youthful

charm? Is it the fashion sense? Or... is it that shimmering blue car he got?

To have a car is an advantage. You get to travel with not much hassle compared to having to commute. For young men especially that below 25, owning one is a symbol of masculinity. They often use it as a magnet for the opposite sex.

Beneath these fine points, one disadvantage these young men suffer in having a car is: **THEY HAVE TO PAY HIGHER AUTO INSURANCE RATE**. As the rationale of this policy tells, younger men are at high risks compared to older ones. That is why they have to pay for higher rates.

Some understand and realize this point but for many, they think it is a form of "discrimination".

The word discrimination is defined as—treatment or consideration based on class or category rather than individual merit; partiality or prejudice: racial discrimination; discrimination against foreigners.

Most young men who claim that indeed there is discrimination feels that though they are at high risks, why must charges be different? It is like charging one person according to gender, race or age which is a form of discrimination.

There is a difference between legal discrimination and the one which is defined by the dictionary. Legal discrimination often pertains to justified discrimination. Discriminating auto insurance rates through age is not true to all states. In some places like California, they categorize them through driving experience. Charges are higher to those who have been driving for less than 9–10 years than those who have been driving more than 10 years to fifty years. For those who are 80 years old or more or the senior citizens have to pay more because they are also at high risks.

In the United States of America, principles which are not prohibited by laws are considered to be permitted. This makes charging bigger rates of auto insurance to men below 25 neither legally discriminatory nor illegal.

Complaints like auto insurance must be based in the drivers' records whether he drives well or not and not by age. Complainants think that it is unjust to charge everybody for the mistake of half. The basis of charging higher to men 25 and below is the psychological aspect, at this age they become playful, very adventurous, risk–takers and they drink a lot!

DISCRIMINATION strikes you when you only let somebody do so.

Mark Dodd is an independant writer who writes for several major publications. His latest project can be seen at the Auto Insurance Blog

<http://www.fautoinsurance.com/>

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