

How to Develop a Successful Human Being

SENSORY

Recognition of Sounds, Textures and Visual Images

Examine textures together – tender blades of grass, cool apple slices, fuzzy slippers – describe how each one feels when you touch it.

- Look at books together. Feel the smooth pages and enjoy the colorful pictures.
- Listen for the birds. Hear them chirp and sing.
- Stop and smell the flowers.

LANGUAGE

Listening and Comprehension, Speech, Reading and Writing

- Read, read, read to her every day.
- As you go about your daily tasks, talk to her about each one of them.
- Surround her with an abundance of books, activities, puzzles and games.
- Read poetry.
- Sing! Sing nursery rhymes. Rhymes are underpinnings for learning language.

FINE MOTOR

Grasping, Hand-Eye Coordination, Drawing and Writing

- Encourage dexterity and hand-eye coordination by allowing your baby to feed himself. Messy? Yes. Productive? Extremely.
- Play with blocks.
- Say yes to scribbling. Use age-appropriate surfaces, crayons and markers.

GROSS MOTOR

Balance, Exercise, Movement Coordination and Control

- Respect your child's individual pace.
- Provide plenty of safe places to walk, climb, jump and pull up.
- Toss the ball. Pull the wagon. Run, skip, hop, stretch, move, dance, enjoy!

THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING

Concept Formation and Comprehension, Logic and Reasoning Skills, Cause-and-Effect

- Be patient. Allow time for your child to process and connect information.
- Introduce positive cause-and-effect experiences, then make an observation: "Look! When you dropped the ball, it bounced!"

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL

Sharing and Cooperating, Relationship Skills, Self-Esteem

- Identify feelings with him – happy, sad, angry, loving – and ask him to express each one.
- Validate his efforts, regardless of the results.
- Encourage him to play dress up, then enjoy the make-believe stories that follow.

CREATIVITY

Imagination, Ingenuity, Music, Art, Drama, Self-Expression

- Lavish your little one with joyful stories and music, colorful puppets and art supplies.
- Remember, it's the process and not the product that's important.
- Say "Tell me a story."
- Dance with her! Share a giggle. Share many giggles.