



BUILDING BLOCKS

A Newsletter for Teachers Working with Preschool Educational Equity For All

February 2016

5 Preschool Activities for Children with Special Needs

1. Sensory Tables
2. Outdoor Play Time
3. Yoga for Kids
4. Light Boxes
5. Music and Circle Time

<http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2015/01/15/5-preschool-activities-for-children-with-special-needs/>



5 Different Activities for 6 Lines of Tape

1. Jump, of course!
The original way we did it, jumping from the
2. Jump backwards
3. Jump with one foot
4. How far can you stretch?

Starting with your foot on the first line, see how far you can stretch with your other foot while keeping your first foot in place.



Start by standing on the first line and then bending over to touch the next line with your hands. Then walk forward *with your hands*, seeing how far your can reach.

5. How long are you?

Measure yourself! Lay down and see how long you are.



We hope you enjoyed your summer and want to update you on the amazing plans for the **2016 Annual CAEYC Conference and EXPO**, which is scheduled for **March 31- April 2** in beautiful Pasadena, California.

Early Bird (through Feb 19)	
Category	Member
Full Conference*	\$295
2 Day (Thurs/Fri or Thurs/Sat)*	\$185
2 Day (Fri/Sat)	\$155
1 Day (Thurs)*	\$175
1 Day (Fri or Sat)	\$145
Expo Only	\$10

<https://caeyc.org/>

Tactile and Sensory Activities for Special Needs Children

Many special needs children see the world with their fingertips. They learn best through “doing” and “feeling” activities. Also, some special needs children have challenges with their sensory skills and may have unusual habits when it comes to touch. These activities for special needs children will help develop your child’s sensory skills, while making them more comfortable with touching different textures; Shaving Cream Painting, Touching and Feeling Different Textures, Adding Weight

<http://www.specialneeds.com/activities/general-special-needs/tactile-and-sensory-activities>



FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



How to Build a Magnificent Milk Jug Igloo

<http://www.diyncrafts.com/9885/repurpose/recycling-finest-build-magnificent-milk-jug-igloo>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/get-moving-kids-exercises-gross-motor-play/>

<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2014/05/indoor-gross-motor-activities-kids.html>

<http://theinspiredtreehouse.com/gross-motor-skills-kit-for-kids/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development that Works!



[NEW for 2014-
ONLINE
TRAININGS!](#)

- Learn new skills.
- Enhance your curriculum.
- Practical applications you can use **now!**

<http://www.leapsmart.org/leapsmart/content/professional-development>



40 Gross Motor Activities to Get Your Kids Moving! <http://handsonaswegrow.com/get-the-kids-moving-activities/>

It wears them out! Number one reason by far!

It's good for them to learn to move in new ways and build muscles.

- [Make art in a big way](#). [Shake it](#), [throw it](#), [stomp it](#), [roll it](#), bounce it, [chase it](#), [slide it](#)
- Create roads for the kids to drive along. [Make a maze](#), or use [bubble wrap](#), [sidewalk chalk](#) or anything else that makes it big!
- Get out balloons. Balloons move, a lot! Play [balloon badminton](#), [pop the balloons](#), just bounce them around and have a ball!
- Go on a hunt. Make it [a learning hunt](#), and [indoor string hunt](#), or and [outdoor scavenger nature](#).
- Learn about balance with [a homemade balance beam](#), or [walk the line](#), or make it [a balance relay](#)
- Explore a material. Especially ones that can be thrown around like [tissue paper](#), [newspapers](#) or fabric.
- Get out the sidewalk chalk and draw up some activities to run through, [drive through](#), or [hop through!](#)
- Race! Make them [silly races!](#)

Guess the Objects covered in Tin Foil



**Fizzy,
frozen,
baking
soda ice**

Sensory Boards for Special Needs



Sensory processing disorders cause children to have a distorted sense of their surroundings, which often interrupts their learning and exploration of their world.

Sensory integration is our brain's ability to interpret and respond to sensory information, and those with sensory processing disorder often have difficulty integrating and responding to this information.

Using sensory integration products is one key way to help a child with sensory processing disorder make sense of the world; additionally, these products are ideal for children who do not have sensory processing disorder, and these items can help children reach important developmental milestones. Make your own sensory boards. See how at: <http://www.specialneeds.com/activities/general-special-needs/sensory-boards-special-needs>