











Gross Motor

- Gross Motor skills- Moving the whole body and using larger muscles of the body, such as those in the arms
- Better coordinated movements such as:
 Swinging
 Balancing

 - Climbing
 - Running
 Jumping





Fine Motor

- Fine Motor skills- Using the small muscles found in individual body parts, especially those in the hands
- Better precise and intentional movements such as:
 Writing
 Painting
 Cutting with scissors
 Buttoning
 Painting
 Painting

 - Pouring







Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

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National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness





Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

- Preschoolers are driven to interact
- Motor skills are foundational to perspective-taking
- Motor and physical development allows preschoolers to engage and "keep up with their peers"
- Motor skills become more complex as capacity and abilities increase





Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development



- Social interactions require movement
- Being able to "keep up" increases self-esteem and social-emotional development
- A bodily sense of centeredness is a foundation for concentration and other executive functioning skills.



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Effective Teaching Practices

- Variety of environmental opportunities for physical activity
- Knowing children's unique differences
- Short periods of motor activity to promote emotion regulation and focus
- Structuring classroom activities that require children to move in order to complete the task
- Adapting learning environments to meet the needs of all children



Approaches to Learning

Learning to:

- Persist or keep trying even if a task is frustrating.
- Be flexible
- Control impulses













Ongoing Assessment

You prefer cool colors (blues & greens):

You prefer warm colors (reds & oranges):

Where/when is it best to assess gross motor skills?

Where/when is it best to assess fine motor skills?



Ongoing Assessment

- Two-way communication
- Families are the best source of information





