

10 Fun Activities To
Boost Your Toddler's
Brain Power



How To
Afford
Disney

I said I'd
have my best
friend's baby
and then I had quads!

AMERICA'S #1 FAMILY MAGAZINE

MARCH 2003

PARENTS.COM

Parents

2 Skateboard Star

Mitchie Brusco, of Kirkland, Washington, will not start kindergarten until the fall of 2003. But last year—at the tender age of 4—he entered his first skateboarding contest, the Sound and the Fury world amateur competition. Out of 120 competitors—ages 13 to 29 years old, except for Mitchie—he placed 57th. This year, at age 5, he became the youngest person ever to participate in the Gravity Games, the nation's premiere extreme-sporting event.

Mitchie was just 3 years old when his parents, Jennifer and Mick, bought him a \$9 skateboard and took him to the local skating park for fun. "At first, Mitchie was so shy he'd ask to leave when older kids showed up," Jennifer says. "But soon people were pulling up in their cars to watch him do tricks." Today Mitchie practices four to six hours a day (remember, he's not in school yet) and has six sponsors. "Mitchie never practices without a helmet and safety pads," Jennifer says. "And while I occasionally worry that he'll get hit by other people, I trust him. He knows who can skate, who's learning, and who to stay away from. If it gets too busy, he just walks away from the ramp."



Even though Mitchie is already a star in skateboarding circles, he is still very much a 5-year-old boy. "After Mitchie's done skating for the day, he always heads for the park's jungle gym," Jennifer says. "All the older guys tease, 'You can't skate like that and then go play on the swings!'"

TOP: CHARLES GALLING, BOTTOM: ERIC GREEN