

BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN  
BOX  
JUST FOR KIDS

# BECAUSE OF LISA LESLIE

AGES 5-8

EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT AGE  
BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT AGE  
IT'S ABOUT WORK ETHIC.

**WINNING**  
NEVER GETS OLD.

LISA LESLIE

BOTWC MINI POSING AS  
LISA LESLIE





# AMBIDEXTROUS!

It was a rather normal day of middle school, in California. During girls basketball tryouts, team members were told to split into two groups. One group for the **lefties** and another group for the **righties**.

Lefties are people that use their left-hand often, especially to write. Righties are people that use their right-hand often, especially to write.

Lisa Deshaun Leslie was the only lefty in the group, so from then on, she decided to become a rightie. This was important to her because she would not have to stand in a line by herself. That decision made her **ambidextrous**.

Lisa was so good at the game of basketball, that she transferred to a junior high school without a girls' basketball team, and joined a boys' basketball team in the 8th grade. Her success there made her more confident. This confidence would work out in Lisa's favor.

At only the age of fourteen, Lisa received more than a hundred college offer letters, including some from top schools, like University of Tennessee and Stanford University.

At Morningside High School, in Inglewood California, she was a slam dunk for the Monarchs basketball program, starting every game for the girl's varsity team! She even joined the volleyball team and competed in track and field. She did the 400-meter run and the high jump!

She was able to dunk the ball in the open court, even though she was not able to palm the ball. She helped to lead her team to the 1989 California state championship. Leslie was so talented that she was invited to participate in the USA's Junior World Championship team. She became one of the best players in the country.

Lisa decided to stay close to home, the place where she'd won so many championships. She played 120



# LISA LESLIE



college basketball games at University of Southern California and graduated with a bachelor's degree in **communications**. She also completed her master's degree in **business administration** from the University of Phoenix.

The **Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)** started in 1996 and Lisa began playing in 1997. She joined **Los Angeles Sparks** and helped the Sparks make the playoffs five times! In 2001, Lisa was named Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation.

Lisa accomplished many firsts during her amazing basketball career:

- Lisa became the first woman to dunk the ball in a WNBA game.
- She became the first WNBA player to score over 3,000 total career points.
- She became the first player to reach the 4,000-career point milestone.
- Lisa had also become the first WNBA player to dunk in an all-star game.
- Lisa became the first player to score 6,000 points in a career.

And she's done so much more! Lisa retired from the WNBA in 2009, but not without 4 Olympic gold medals, modeling for magazines, acting for television, and more. She also became an author and sports commentator. Lisa took on the world, left and right, in more ways than one.



**List three facts you learned about Lisa Deshaun Leslie.**

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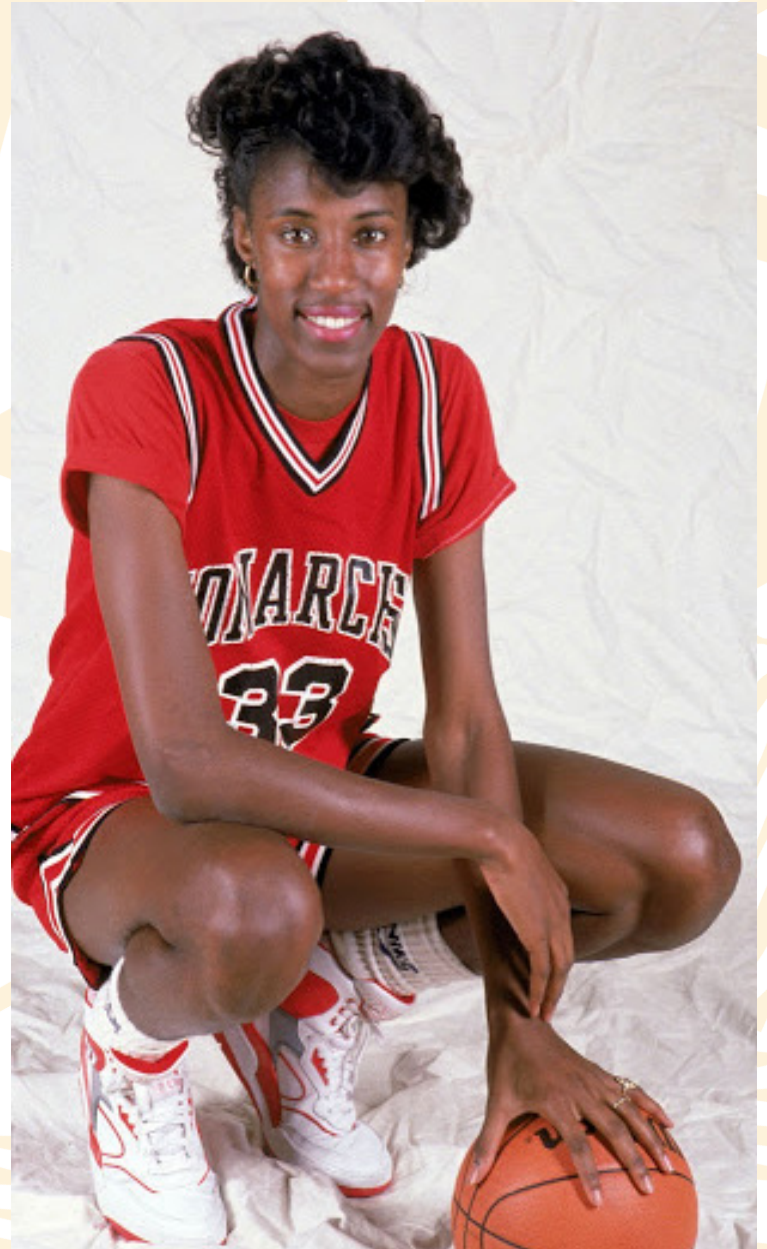
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## READ & RESPOND

**What does the photo of Lisa Leslie show? Based on the reading, what do you think she was doing at this age?**

[illegible]

## GLOSSARY

**Righties:** People whose dominant hand is their right.

**Lefties:** People whose dominant hand is their left.

**Ambidextrous:** (of a person) able to use the right and left hands equally well.

**Business administration:** (in education) a course of study at a university or college that prepares students for managerial roles in companies or organizations.

**Communications:** the study of how to effectively communicate different types of information in various fields such as journalism/media, business, politics, and law.

**WNBA:** Women's National Basketball Association

**Los Angeles Sparks:** The Los Angeles Sparks are an American professional basketball team based in Los Angeles, California, playing in the Western Conference in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). The team was founded before the league's inaugural 1997 season began.



# SLAM DUNK

1. Lisa sees 6 basketballs. Tiara sees 3 basketballs. How many basketballs did they see?

2. Lisa makes 3 slam dunks. Martin makes 1 slam dunk. How many slam dunks took place?

3. Coach says there is 1 basketball hoop on one side of the court. Lisa says there is 1 more basketball hoop on the other side of the court. How many basketball hoops are there?

Word Search Answer Key

E	K	K	S	P	A	S	X	S	C	A	D	K	E
J	Z	M	O	A	T	D	T	M	T	G	H	A	V
T	M	R	S	M	H	X	A	T	E	T	I	I	S
S	O	D	H	O	N	B	X	G	J	E	A	N	F
Z	O	G	H	R	O	N	B	X	G	J	E	A	N
U	M	S	O	A	V	T	M	L	A	B	O	T	N
U	I	B	G	A	V	T	M	L	A	B	O	T	N
T	H	T	I	B	A	T	U	N	X	A	A	M	E
H	E	M	O	O	B	G	T	A	E	A	S	I	R
R	P	U	T	T	X	A	G	Z	O	T	A	T	T
N	A	A	D	A	E	F	K	I	B	H	E	O	B
T	O	S	K	M	K	K	G	B	A	S	S	W	R
F	N	I	P	A	S	A	V	T	S	I	H	J	S
K	I	X	I	P	I	P	I	P	I	P	I	P	I
K	I	X	I	P	I	P	I	P	I	P	I	P	I
D	A	T	A	C	B	C	B	E	B	S	J	H	S

# WORD TO LISA LESLIE!

**DIRECTIONS:** Find the words below!

AMBIDEXTROUS  
ANGELES  
BASKETBALL

DUNK  
LEFTIES  
LESLIE

LISA  
LOS  
OLYMPIC

RIGHTIES  
SLAM  
SPARKS



S	L	J	H	J	C	E	B	S	B	C	W	T	A	D
A	H	I	P	T	I	P	R	L	A	I	X	T	U	K
J	M	U	S	L	V	I	F	A	S	P	I	N	E	F
R	M	B	S	A	G	G	K	M	K	M	K	S	O	L
B	Q	E	I	H	B	I	K	F	E	Y	Q	Y	V	N
L	L	Y	T	D	Z	C	Y	X	T	L	U	P	P	R
Q	S	I	R	V	E	Y	L	C	B	O	O	W	E	H
X	E	E	M	V	A	X	U	T	A	G	I	L	H	L
S	T	N	L	D	B	V	T	W	L	V	G	R	I	U
Q	A	Z	V	E	N	L	O	R	L	A	O	S	W	U
H	Q	Y	E	J	G	X	B	N	O	R	H	C	D	Z
E	F	N	P	F	V	N	S	J	H	U	P	Q	C	S
S	E	I	T	F	E	L	A	X	H	W	S	R	M	L
Y	Y	H	G	T	W	T	T	D	L	Y	O	W	Z	J

Math Answer Key  
1. 9 Basketballs | 2. 4 Slam Dunks | 3. 2 Hoops

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

**I WILL HONOR**  
THE SACRIFICES OF  
MY ANCESTORS.

**I WILL BELIEVE**  
IN ME.

**I WILL PURSUE**  
MY DREAMS.

**I WILL HELP**  
OTHERS ALONG  
THE WAY.