

BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

# BECAUSE OF LISA LESLIE

AGES 9-12

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. There were two groups: lefties and 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



# LISA LESLIE



120 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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# SLAM DUNK



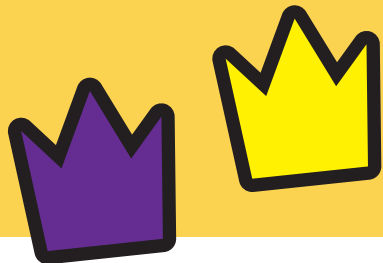
1. The Los Angeles Sparks' travel bus was scheduled to arrive at 5:10 p.m. However, it was delayed for 25 minutes. What time was it when the bus arrived?

2. The Staples Center bus departs the bus terminal every 2 hours. If the first bus is scheduled to depart at 10:35 a.m., when should the second bus depart?

3. Lisa left practice at 11:20 a.m. and arrived home at 2:40 p.m. How long did it take her to travel?



GOAL SETTING  
AND ACHIEVING  
THOSE GOALS  
- THAT'S JUST  
WHAT I DO.



# BASKETBALL BINGO

**DIRECTIONS:** Get 5 answers correct in a row, horizontally or vertically, and you've hit BINGO! Use the reading to check your answers!

|   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| What is the term for people that can use their left and right hand well?          | What was the name of Lisa's high school basketball program? | Lisa was the only _____ in her middle school group.                                  | Lisa has a master's degree in _____ administration.                                | Lisa received more than _____ college offer letters.                |
| Two of Lisa's college letters were from University of _____ and _____ University. | Lisa was the first woman to _____ in a WNBA game.           | Lisa had a master's degree in _____.   | Lisa wrote a book. That makes her an _____.  | Lisa went to _____ High School.                                     |
| What year did Lisa's team win the championship?                                   | In track and field, Lisa did the _____-meter.               |  | Lisa retired from the NBA in _____.  | How old was Lisa when she started to receive college offer letters? |
| How many college basketball games did Lisa play?                                  | In track and field, Lisa also did the _____ jump.           | Lisa helped the Los Angeles Sparks make the playoffs _____ times.                    | During tryouts in middle school, how many groups were players asked to split into? | Where was Morningside High School located?                          |
| Lisa was named Sportswoman of the Year by _____.                                  | Lisa joined a _____ basketball team in the 8th grade.       | What does WNBA stand for?  | Lisa was the first player to _____ in an all-star game.                            | Lisa also joined the _____ ball team in high school.                |

Math Answer Key | 1. The bus arrived at 5:35 p.m. | 2. The second bus should depart at 12:35p.m. | 3. Lisa traveled for 3 hours and 20 minutes.

## 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.