Why do pigs like rolling around in the mud?

From *The Book of Totally Useless Information* by Don Voorhees

Down through the ages, pigs have picked up the bad reputation of being dirty animals. Far from being filthy creatures, pigs are quite clean if given sanitary living conditions.

The ancient Eqyptians held the pig to be sacred and thus ritual cleansing was necessary for people in contact with them. From this stemmed the belief that swine are unclean animals and the Jewish and Muslims came to forbid eating the flesh of pigs. Another reason swine are considered dirty may be for their practice of rolling around in mud.

While it may look like a disgusting habit that pigs engage in for sheer pleasure, there is actually biological necessity for this behavior. Pigs have no sweat glands and cannot get rid of excess heat by perspiring as we humans do. One good way for pigs to cool off is to moisten their skin and allow the process of evaporation to carry heat away. Some of the energy (heat) used in evaporation comes from the skin.

Since pigs usually aren’t kept near pools of clean water, they make do with whatever moisture is handy-namely, mud. This is not to say that they don’t thoroughly enjoy themselves in the process.

Why is pink for girls and blue for boys?

From *The Book of Totally Useless Information* by Don Voorhees

In ancient times, the survival of boys was more important than the survival of girls in many cultures. Supposedly, the ancients believed that children had to be protected from evil spirits who preyed upon them. It was felt that blue, the color of the heavens above, could ward off the forces of evil. Therefore, little boys were dressed in blue. Why they didn’t simply dress all children in blue and thus protect the girls also is a little strange. Perhaps girls were left unprotected as an offering to placate the spirits.

Later in history girls were honored with their very own color, pink, which apparently had no special powers.

Today psychologists are aware of the effects that different colors have on children. It has been shown that pink (bubble-gum pink) has a soothing effect on children. The color pink is used in many hospital psychiatric wards to calm patients. Curiously enough, the cooler blue also has a soothing effect. It has been shown to lower a child’s blood pressure and increase attentiveness. Could this be another reason for dressing children in pink or blue? Maybe.

Just in case you are curious, yellow cheers and excites children. Red is the worst color for kids to deal with, because it raises blood pressure, respiration and heart rate, and brain and muscle activity. You might want to keep this in mind next time you paint your child’s room.