

Tips and Activities for Parents of
Children 0 to 18 Months ● Year 2

Jesus Loves Children

"Jesus loves the children."

(See Mark 10:16.)



This month we will help your child:

- develop an awareness of the name of Jesus and associate Him with being loved;
- enjoy the activities provided.

October

Do these activities with your child to continue the learning your child has experienced at church.

Do It!

Jesus Loves Us All



Who are the children Jesus loves?

Jesus loves us all!

He loves us when we clap;

He loves us when we crawl.

He loves us when we walk;

He loves us when we fall.



Who are the children Jesus loves?

Jesus loves us all.

Jesus loves you!



Show your child a picture of Jesus from a child's Bible story book (available at most bookstores). Point to Jesus and say His name. Tell your child that Jesus loves every child. Say the finger play, making the motions with your fingers. If your child is interested, repeat the finger play slowly and encourage him or her to act out

Little Activities for Little People

Babies

• Your baby will enjoy pushing his or her feet against your hands. Talk with and encourage your baby about his or her leg movement. Say, **Your feet are pushing my hands. You are getting very strong! Jesus loves you!** While your baby is having fun moving his or her legs, your baby will also be growing in understanding language.

• Babies enjoy looking at books with pictures of familiar items. Since babies not only like to study the pictures but also to taste and to handle the pages, it's important to have durable, washable books for your baby. As you enjoy a book with your baby, point to and describe what your child sees. For instance, **I see the yellow truck. Here's the blue bird.**

the actions with you by clapping, crawling, walking and plopping down on the floor. Say your child's name in the last line of the finger play.

Sing It!

Each Little Child

(Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Jesus loves each little child,

Little child, little child.

Jesus loves each little child,

He loves you, yes, He does.

Sing this song to your child, inserting your child's name in place of "each little child." Show your child a picture of Jesus. Say, **Jesus loves you!** Sing the song. Point to Jesus when you sing His name. Point to your child when you sing his or her name.

October Parent's Home Page

Talking with Your Child Brings Results

One of the most amazing accomplishments of the entire human life span takes place by the age of three years: learning to understand almost all normal conversation. At birth, all words are meaningless. But within 36 months, the child has broken the code!

Long before a child can speak, he or she can grasp the general meaning of words spoken or sung. Usually by the eighth month, a child can understand his or her first word; by the child's first birthday, several dozen words have meaning for him or her. However, a child is not likely to say his or her first words until he or she is several months older. This gap between understanding and speaking often causes parents to talk very little to a child, thereby delaying speech development. Extensive research has shown that one of the most helpful things parents can do to stimulate intellectual and social growth is to talk with their baby. Dr. Burton White of Harvard University offers these suggestions for talking with children in their first two years of life:

- Whenever you care for your baby—feeding, changing, comforting or playing—talk to him

or her. Add a smile to your voice. This interaction builds a strong connection in the baby's mind between your presence, your voice and the good feeling of being cared for.

- A baby can easily distinguish his or her mother's voice from other voices and often responds with smiles and focused attention.

- Talk frequently to your child, describing your actions and feelings, as well as the child's actions and responses. Talk about the here and now: the dishes you are putting on the table, the toy the baby is playing with.

- Read very simple stories to your baby just before he or she falls asleep. Story reading builds a close relationship between parent and child.

Flashlight Games

- Give your child a flashlight. Name the things your child shines the light on. Say, **You are shining the light on (the table).**

- Play tag with flashlights. Use the beam of your own flashlight to catch your child's flashlight beam. Continue as long as your child shows interest.

"The first essential in a happy Christian home is that love must be practiced."

Billy Graham