

Tips and Activities for Parents of
Children 18 to 36 Months • Year 2

Jesus Loves Children

“Jesus loves the children.”

(See Mark 10:16.)



This month we will help your child:

- hear songs and words about Jesus’ love for children;
- feel loved by caring teachers;
- participate in play activities that teach him or her about Jesus’ love.

October

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

Tell It!

Jesus Loved the Little Children

Jesus loved the little children.
Mommies and Daddies brought
their children to Jesus.

Jesus held the little babies close.
Big boys and girls walked to Him
all by themselves!

Jesus smiled at all the children.
And the children smiled at Him.

Some children came and sat near Jesus.
Some children climbed right up in His lap!

Jesus loved each one.
(See Mark 10:13-16.)

Sing It!

Each Little Child

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

Jesus loves each little child,
Little child, little child.

Little Activities for Little People

Toddlers

- When your toddler plays near another toddler, make sure you have several toys available. Children at this age play side by side in their own little worlds—unless one has a toy that another just has to have! Having several interesting toys helps solve this problem. Sharing is a concept yet to be learned by toddlers.
- Help your child safely explore a variety of seasonal items: pumpkin, Indian corn, squash, fall leaves. Talk with your child about the variety of colors and textures. Say, **Look at the colors of these leaves. I see an orange leaf. I see a yellow leaf. God made leaves. God loves you.**

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.

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 book-

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stores). 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 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.

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 years of life:

- Whenever you care for your child—feeding, changing, comforting or playing—talk to him or her. Add a smile to your voice. This interaction builds a strong connection in the child's mind between your presence, your voice and the good feeling of being cared for.
- 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 child is playing with.
- Read simple stories to your child 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)**. With an older toddler, you may call out the name of a familiar object in the room. Ask your child to shine his or her light on the object.
- 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