

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

God Cares for Me

“God cares about you.”

(See 1 Peter 5:7.)

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This month we will help your child:

- associate God with the loving care experienced at church;
- show interest in conversation and songs about God’s care.

June

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

Little Activities for Little People

Babies

- Hold your baby on your lap and sit facing a mirror. Wave your hand. Watch to see if your baby imitates your motion. Make several other motions, too. Point to your baby’s nose, eyes, mouth, etc. Say, **I see your face in the mirror. I see your eyes and your mouth. God made you, Jessie. God cares for you!**
- Let your baby look at and carefully touch a small flowering plant. Say, **Look at this pretty flower. God cares for flowers and helps them to grow. God cares for you, too. God gives you food to eat and people to care for you. I love you.**
- While changing your baby’s diapers, lean over him or her, making sounds to draw your baby’s attention to you. When your baby is looking at you, slowly move your face back and forth, continuing to make the sounds. Move slowly and quietly to help assure the baby of your complete attention.

Do It!

God Cares for Me



God cares for me
When I sleep.
God cares for me
When I play.
God cares for me
All the time,
Every night and
Every day.

Say and do this finger play with your child. Replace the words “me” and “I” with your child’s name. Use the finger play when putting your child to sleep or when playing with him or her. On a bright sunny day, talk about the color of the sky and the sunshine and then say the finger play. In the evening, take your child out to look at the moon and the stars and talk about the nighttime. Repeat the finger play.

Sing It!

I’m So Glad

(Tune: “Skip to My Lou”)

I’m so glad that God loves me,
God loves me, God loves me.
I’m so glad that God loves me,
He loves me all the time.
I’m so glad that God loves you,
God loves you, God loves you.
I’m so glad that God loves you,
He loves you all the time.

Sing this song to your child, replacing “you” with your child’s name. Clap your hands as you sing this song and encourage your child to clap with you. These first attempts at clapping are the beginning steps of learning rhythm. Say, **God cares for you when you play and when you sleep! I love you and care for you, too, when you are sleepy or playing!**

June Parent's Home Page

Laying the Foundation

There is no more appropriate place for a child to learn trust than in your family! Such security becomes the basis for learning to trust God and beginning to feel His love. Make sure your child understands that your home is safe and that the people there are caring ones.

Here are some specific ways to lay a foundation of secure feelings in babies:

Respond. Don't ignore your baby or dismiss his or her crying or other behavior as "just crankiness." Make the effort to understand and help.

Provide interesting things to do, to look at, to listen to.

Talk in a quiet, respectful and soothing way. Never respond in anger. Singing to your child may calm both of you. Or try talking to your child about how you want to respond gently and helpfully to his or her fussiness—it will help you do that. Pray, asking God to give you gentleness in place of anger.

Be observant. When you see trouble coming, distract your child with another activity or toy.

Remove your child from danger or potential problems, talking to him or her as you do so

to help your child understand what you are doing.

Take time to watch your child, to ask and to respond in appropriate ways to him or her. This tells your little one he or she is important to you—and to God.

Bubble Games

- Buy some bubble solution or make your own ($\frac{1}{4}$ cup clear dishwashing liquid, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup glycerin [purchase at the drugstore], $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water and 1 tablespoon sugar). Make big bubbles by dipping the large end of a plastic kitchen funnel into the bubble solution and blowing through the small end. Play with the bubbles along with your child.

- Get your hands wet. Blow bubbles through your hands.

- Have your child try to stomp on the bubbles as they land on the floor or grass.

- Break the bubbles by clapping your hands together. Play some music and clap to the beat with your child as you both try to break the bubbles.

- Blow bubbles to your child in the bathtub.

"A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on."

Carl Sandburg