

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

## God Cares for Me

**“God cares about you.”**

(See 1 Peter 5:7.)

**This month we will help your child:**

- hear words and songs about God’s care for him or her;
- feel thankful for God’s care;
- participate in play activities to learn ways God cares for him or her.

## June

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

## Little Activities for Little People

Toddlers

- When a few books are placed within your child’s reach, he or she can choose a book to look at. When your child brings a book to you, let him or her turn the pages. Talk about the pictures in the book, connecting the items in the pictures with the ways in which God cares for your child. Say, **Here is a bunny. God cares for bunnies. He gives grass to eat. God cares for you. God gives you food to eat, too. God loves you!** Your child may want to turn the pages in the same book several times, usually not in any particular order. And they may point to the same items each time. Children cannot learn without repetition. Repetition is one of the ways they assimilate new information and connect it with the information they already have.
- Provide a simple rhythm instrument (shaker, rattle or bell) for your child to play with. Briefly demonstrate use of the instrument. Then give it to the child. Play lively music from a children’s CD.

### 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

### Tell It!

#### Jesus Told About God's Care

"Look at the pretty flowers,"  
Jesus said.

"God makes them grow.  
He makes red, yellow and white flowers.

God made these flowers,  
And He cares for them.

God made you.

God loves you and cares for you, too.  
God loves you even more than flowers."  
(See Matthew 6:28-32.)

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.

### 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 toddlers:

- Respond. Don't ignore your toddler 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

### Bubble Games

• Buy some bubble solution or make your own (¼ cup clear dishwashing liquid, ¼ cup glycerin [purchase at the drugstore], ¾ 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 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**