

Ages 2-4

God's Word		
Cognitive	Nurturing Implications	Additional Tips for Home
<p>Short attention span (2-4 minutes)</p> <p>Only understand right and wrong in relation to positive and negative reinforcement</p> <p>Vocabulary increasing</p> <p>Enjoy repetition and imitation</p> <p>Cannot distinguish between fantasy and reality</p> <p>Assume everyone thinks just as they do, so they do not question their thinking</p> <p>Do not make rational or logical connections between their experiences</p> <p>Live in the moment - do not make logical connections to what just happened or what the final outcome will be</p>	<p>Children can learn that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God made me. * God made everything. * God is good. * God loves me. * The Bible is a special book. * I can pray to God. 	<p>Sing simple songs that teach God's truths.</p> <p>Use colorful pictures of Bible stories in the room.</p> <p>Handle the children's picture Bible in a careful way demonstrating how they should handle the Bible.</p> <p>Hold children in your lap and look at picture books of Bible stories together. <i>3-4 year olds can be grouped for a story.</i></p> <p>Use hand movements with Bible nursery rhymes and songs.</p> <p>Repeat stories and songs.</p> <p>Relate Bible stories to the here and now.</p>
		<p>Read from the children's Bible regularly.</p> <p>Find a special place in your home to read the Bible.</p> <p>Use hand motions when telling the stories.</p> <p>Draw pictures of the stories.</p> <p>Keep it short.</p>

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Relationships			
Social/Emotional	Nurturing Implications		Additional Tips for Home
<p>Self centered: “me” “mine”</p> <p>Play alongside others rather than with them</p> <p>Desire close physical contact with caregivers</p> <p>Sensitive to the feelings and attitudes of adults</p> <p>Like to do things on their own</p> <p>Affectionate and can show feeling of jealousy</p> <p>Need security, can miss parents</p>	<p>Children this age still have trouble sharing and still believe everyone thinks just as they do.</p> <p>They cannot comprehend that someone else thinks differently than they do.</p> <p>This can lead to conflict while playing.</p>	<p>Establish routines.</p> <p>Model Christ-like attitudes.</p> <p>Offer group play but do not force group participation.</p> <p>Give them opportunities to do things for themselves.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for sharing and taking turns and holding the hand of a partner.</p>	<p>Spending time with children when they are young will enable parents to communicate more effectively when their children are teens.</p> <p>Give them opportunities to do things for themselves whenever possible. Show them, and then let them try.</p>

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Outward Action			
Physical	Nurturing Implications		Additional Tips For Home
<p>Large motor progression: walking, climbing, running, jumping</p> <p>Very active</p> <p>Tire easily</p> <p>Toilet training</p>	<p>Provide space to develop large motor muscles.</p> <p>Allow choices of activities.</p> <p>Use the floor for playing.</p> <p>Use tables sparingly.</p>	<p>Supply large crayons and paint brushes.</p> <p>Use smocks or old shirts for messy projects.</p> <p>Provide make believe areas: <i>kitchens, fast food, tents, castles, puppets, blocks, etc.</i></p>	<p>Provide safe spaces for your child to exercise his/her growing mobility.</p> <p>Set clear boundaries for your child and be constant in reinforcing the boundaries.</p> <p>If, after redirecting a child from inappropriate behavior, the child purposely defies you, consider using a timeout chair for 2-4 minutes.</p> <p>Have your child go with you to the grocery store to help you pick out food.</p> <p>Make something for someone else such as a picture or cookies which your child has helped decorate.</p>

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Worship			
Spiritual	Nurturing Implications		Additional Tips For Home
<p>Able to sense the presence of God</p> <p>Trusting with a sense of awe and wonder</p> <p>Can begin to understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God made me * God made everything * God is good * God loves me * The Bible is a special book 	<p>We must be careful not to assume that just because a child cannot communicate with us about God in the same way as an adult they do not have a relationship with God.</p> <p>Children can have an intimate relationship with God long before they can fully articulate it.</p> <p>Children also experience God's love and care for them through the church and their families.</p> <p>Sing! Children this age love singing and they pick up Biblical truths faster through song than they do through memorization.</p>	<p>Pray for children daily.</p> <p>You can teach this age to fold their hands and bow their head while praying.</p> <p>Always speak about God and to God with the understanding that God is present.</p> <p>Provide lots of visual stimulus: <i>stained glass, banners, cross, candles, water, material swayed across the ceiling, etc.</i></p> <p>Children need planned movement in worship services: <i>motions to music, mix short periods of music, prayer, drama, dance (lots of variety).</i></p>	<p>Continue modeling faith. Children learn through observation, repetition and mimicking.</p> <p>Pray together. Speak knowing God is present.</p> <p>Read a portion of a picture Bible together with the expectation that God has something to say to you and your child.</p> <p>Children in this age group will begin to pick up on the Bible stories. They may be able to tell stories back to you based on the pictures. Children will appreciate being given the chance to do this and it will help you to see what details they have picked up on.</p>