

# Toddler & Creche Teaching Basics

## Psalm 78:1-7

*O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.*

*I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old –  
what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.*

*We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy  
deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*

## Can Babies Learn?

Babies are constantly learning new things - like little sponges, they are eager to join in and grow. The teaching methods on this sheet will be effective for babies and toddlers and include repetition, singing, visual aids and the five senses.

The goal is to help the children develop happy, positive attitudes towards class and church, learning to feel safe and secure with different adults to care for them. It is (and should be) a long way from baby-sitting!

## Top 10 Safety Tips

1. Check overall safety of room; exposed plug sockets, open windows, hanging blind cords, hot radiators, paper clips, small objects.
2. Try to register children on a sheet specifically for registration, rather than any piece of paper - remember - it is the fire list in case of emergency evacuation!
3. Using stickers on the back of the child helps identification and prevents the sticker being removed!
4. Assign a number of children (ratio 1:3) to each helper so every child has someone thinking about them all the time.
5. Do regular head counts (every 15 mins).
6. Keep the main door closed during class.
7. Avoid over-stimulating activities like 'chase'.
8. Marching games with the songs are great.
9. Know where all the children are at all times.
10. At collection time, have someone on the door to avoid a child escaping accidentally.

## Singing Ideas

1. Have some songs on CD. A variety of CDs with songs that are contemporary and spiritual is good.
2. Children are soothed by music. They enjoy the rhythm, the melody and the mood created.
3. Hearing - soft voices, pleasing melodies, the sounds that animals and objects make (moo, brumm)
4. Have a dance time where the music is played loud and the children can dance with you.
5. Ask other mums for song ideas - some of us remember ones from our own childhood!

## Important things to remember...

1. Don't forget that parents must change nappies and take them home with them. Do NOT change nappies.
2. Any snacks with nuts in them must NOT be brought into the classroom due to possible allergies.
3. Never leave just one person in the classroom - if necessary, take all children on a toilet break.
4. Be joyful!

## Play Time Ideas

1. Play dough is great IF you have large mats to keep it on - it ruins carpets!
2. Building bricks or Duplo.
3. Plastic food and tea set to play hospitality games.
4. Jigsaws, sewing laces with cards, dominoes.
5. Musical instruments for the singing corner.
6. Cars, trucks, toy telephones, etc.
7. Dolls, dressing clothes, blankets etc.
8. Charity shops have lots of good toys at good prices.
9. Plastic tablecloths provide a cheap way of protecting floors and tables.

## Teaching Ideas

1. Toddlers need repetition - the basic themes of the class repeated again and again.
2. Hearing - soft voices, pleasing melodies
3. Fuzzy felt is a great tool for building bible pictures.
4. Play simple copying games (Pat the Bible, Simon Says)
5. Hold to moral basics - do not snatch; do not hit ("we have kind hands at class"); let's share.
6. Role play is a good method of teaching.
7. Keep crafts simple – pre-drawn pictures to colour on; cards with stickers to add etc.
8. Use soft toys as teaching aids – if the song is about ducks, have some toy ducks for the children to see and hold.
9. Sight – everything they see contributes to their learning – bright colourful visual aids, large bible picture books, murals, mobiles etc.
10. Small mirrors that the children can look in to point to who God loves are a great tool to help the children stay involved in stories and songs.