The Reflective Learner

Remember the child needs you to

- provide a learning environment that allows him to be alone at times
- include quiet places in the room for reflection
- spend time talking with him as he plays
- listen to him as he talks about what he is doing
- allow time for him to think before giving a response
- offer activities that encourage self-expression
- respect his decision not to participate in a group activity; allow him to sit quietly and watch or participate in a less active role
- debrief learning activities to allow times of reflection

Asking Questions helps the child reflect on what he is learning.

- How would you feel if Jesus said He was coming to your house?
- How can your family help your neighbors?
- What is one thing our class could do to help someone learn about Jesus?
- What does this verse mean to you?
- What could you do to help someone in need?

The reflective learner also may be a self-starter who is comfortable in setting goals and working with purpose to achieve those goals. Pondering situations or meditating on applying Bible truths are other characteristics of this type of learner.
The reflective child may exhibit:

- good understanding of himself
- awareness of his own feelings
- need for independence and time to work alone
- realistic view of his strengths
- personalizing concepts
- desire to express his own ideas

The reflective child may enjoy:

- making a book by drawing about himself
- writing or drawing in a journal regularly
- pretend play that encourages him to think about how he would feel in a situation
- working a puzzle or playing with a manipulative toy alone
- looking at a book when placed with another learning activity (a book related to the activity)
- thinking about what he is doing and applying Bible truths
- creating his own art, often remaining longer as he thinks about his work
- cooking or playing out familiar home situations
- preparing a basket of fruit for someone who is ill
- helping another child who might not be able to accomplish puzzle
- playing a memory game one-on-one with a teacher
- hearing a Bible story and role-playing particular scenes, visualizing what he has heard
- identifying foods/fruits scents with photos of foods/fruit
- hearing music played in the background to set a particular mood or feeling
- matching Bible verse pieces with the written verse and talking about the meaning of the verse

Teachers can encourage learning by:

- offering quiet areas to think and work
- asking questions to encourage application of Bible truths
- providing materials that allow self-expression
- giving freedom to choose and pursue his own interests
- spending time relating to him and interacting with him one-on-one