What do we need?

- Pretends to be a family member and practices for a lifetime of relationships.
- Pretends to cook and practices thanking God for food.
- Pretends to be a family member and practices for a life of being part of a family.
- Pretends to doctor a doll and practices doing what the Bible talks about.

Select a doll which:
- Has painted eyes
- Has few, if any, movable parts
- Is washable
- Is durable

Infants - a clean, washable doll and a safe, nonbreakable mirror

Ones - add a doll bed sized rocking chair and a blanket for the doll

Twos - add a child-sized stove, sink, table (about 2 by 3) and chairs

Threes and Pre-K's - add a child-sized chest of drawers (four and older) and doll clothes with self-adhering fasteners

Kindergartners - add more detailed props (dress-up tools, packages with printing, writing materials) to encourage increased role play

Infants enjoy simply touching a doll.

Ones can delight in putting a doll “to bed.”

Twos rock and hug the doll.

Threes can dress up and pretend the doll is going to a party or a tea party.

Kindergartners can pretend to take the doll to the hospital and a doctor to examine it.

What ages can enjoy learning in homeliving?

Infants - a clean, washable doll and a safe, nonbreakable mirror

Ones - add a doll bed sized rocking chair and a blanket for the doll

Twos - add a child-sized stove, sink, table (about 2 by 3) and chairs

Threes and Pre-K's - add a child-sized chest of drawers (four and older) and doll clothes with self-adhering fasteners

Kindergartners - add more detailed props (dress-up tools, packages with printing, writing materials) to encourage increased role play

But, we don’t have the budget!

- Use a permanent marker to transform a sturdy cardboard box to a sink, stove, or doll bed.
- Turn a box on its side and cover with a towel. Children can sit on the floor.
- Bring a pan and wooden spoon from home.
- Make bowls from margarine tubs and plates from their lids.
- Collect some empty food boxes.
- Bring a pan and wooden spoon from home.
- Collect some empty food boxes.

Adapted from Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith by Sanders and Bradberry, LifeWay Press, 2000

Remember: To pretend, a preschooler needs to add little to his God-given creativity.
Values of Homeliving

Physical
- Develops large and small muscles
- Develops eye-hand coordination
- Provides opportunities to use the five senses
- Allows preschoolers time to relax and release energy
- Helps preschoolers become aware of their physical bodies
- Practice skills like pouring and stirring

Mental
- Allows children to engage in problem solving and decision making
- Enriches the child's verbal and nonverbal communication skills
- Helps children construct their own understanding of how the world works
- Lays a foundation for symbolic thinking

Social/Emotional
- Gives children opportunities to cooperate, take turns, and share roles
- Allows children to “try on” roles of people in their lives
- Develops skills in conflict resolution
- Enhances relationships with peers
- Develops the ability to express feelings appropriately
- Allows children to practice negotiation skills
- Helps children feel in control by making things happen
- Promotes feelings of security with the use of familiar materials

Spiritual
- Provides opportunities for children to hear Bible phrases and conversation about Bible stories and Bible characters
- Allows children time to process, internalize, and express biblical truths such as: “We can be kind to one another,” or “People at church work together.”
- Introduces biblical concepts such as, “God planned for families.”

Some Homeliving Tips
- Keep a Bible nearby.
- Locate the homemaking center in a corner clearly visible from the door.
- Post allergy notices when tasting foods.
- Collect props or accessories to enhance learning opportunities.
- Try a recipe first before using it with the children.
- Listen much.
- Avoid unsafe foods (choking hazards) such as: popcorn, whole grapes (unless quartered), hot dogs, whole nuts, raw carrots or celery, unpeeled fruits (apples, pears, peaches), marshmallows, peanut butter (unless in a recipe).

vo-'kab-ye-,ler-e
stir-mix pour-sprinkle
hot-cold freeze-thaw
whole-piece clean-dirty
sweet-sour thick-thin
heavy-light wipe-brush
meat-vegetable wet-dry
cut-peel-slice dice-chop
solid-liquid