

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 94: TEACHING PRESCHOOLERS: THE EIGHT WAYS PRESCHOOLERS LEARN

OUTLINE BY JIM ROBINSON

As you teach preschoolers basic Biblical truths and concepts, it is important to understand how they learn. All preschoolers grow through progressive stages of development and these eight avenues of learning are vital at each stage.

Play – God has designed preschoolers to play. In fact, play is probably the main way preschoolers learn and apply Biblical truths. During play preschoolers relate to others, resolve problems, accept responsibilities, express themselves, and “live-out” current and past experiences. As a child plays the teacher can share Bible stories and concepts.

Relationships – Teachers will have a positive influence with preschoolers as they share Bible learning experiences together. Teacher: you are the “Bible” a preschooler reads before he learns how to read. Each child needs your personal love and attention.

Hands-On Experience – This avenue of learning means involvement. Preschoolers learn more when they “do it”. The more the child is involved – the more they “experience” the Bible truth being taught. Teachers should not “complete” or “change” a child’s creation.

Imitation – Preschoolers learn behaviors, emotions, expressions, etc., from significant others around them. They sometimes imitate actions/words they do not understand. Our goal is to introduce Bible characters that love and obey Jesus for preschoolers to imitate in daily living.

Repetition – When you were a child and your parent read you a story, how many times did you say, “Read it again, please?” Preschoolers acquire more knowledge and understanding when they are allowed to repeat an activity or experience.

Senses – Learning is enhanced when preschoolers are guided to experience and use their senses. The more senses involved – the more learning takes place. The senses are God given for learning from infancy. Tasting, touching, smelling, etc. make activities more pleasurable and exciting. Some activities suggested in the curriculum involve several senses and can be messy to prepare and conduct. Please do not skip these activities. They are great fun for learning and growing spiritually.

Curiosity – All preschoolers are curious. From infancy a preschooler is constantly grabbing items in reach to touch, taste, and smell. Curiosity drives children to explore, discover and grow. Add new items, colors, arrangements, toys, things from nature, etc., to your class room because preschoolers love to experience God’s creation. A room that stays the same is boring. Decorate your door, the bulletin board and the walls according to the season or the unit teaching theme.

Satisfaction – Activities planned for preschoolers should be age appropriate so the child can enjoy and complete the experience with success and satisfaction. An activity that is too difficult will create frustration. It is best to provide more than one creative activity so the child can choose, learn, and grow. Having a choice creates satisfaction.

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