

Tips and Activities for Parents of
Children 18 to 36 Months • Year 1

People at Church Help Me

“God gives people to help me.”

(See 1 Corinthians 12:28.)



This month we will help your child:

- hear words and songs about Jesus’ help for His friends;
- feel cared for by people at church;
- play with a variety of toys and materials and experience love and help from teachers.

May

Do these activities with your child to continue the learning your child has experienced at church.

Tell It!

Jesus Helped His Friends

One day Jesus and His friends
Walked and walked.

Their feet were very dirty!

So Jesus helped His friends.

He poured water into a big bowl.

Jesus washed His friends’ feet

And dried them with a towel.

Jesus loved to help His friends.

People at church love to help you, too.

(See John 13:2-5.)

Sing It!

Showing God’s Love

(Tune: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”)

I will smile and play with you.

Jesus helped His good friends, too.

I can show I care for you

To help you know that God loves you.

Little Activities for Little People

Toddlers

- When your toddler shows affection in caring for a doll (and boys need dolls as much as girls), comment about the way he or she is loving the doll just as you love him or her. Say, **You put the doll to bed just like I put you to bed. Putting your tired baby to bed is a good way to help him or her.**
- Provide blocks of several different sizes for your child to use. While your child is stacking or piling blocks, look for indications of awareness of differing sizes. Point to and identify the big and little blocks. Ask your child to bring you a big block, and then a little block. Praise these efforts. Emphasize that you enjoy being with your child and helping him or her to learn new words.

Sing this song as you serve a meal to or play with your child. Talk about how you enjoy caring for your child. Smile at your child and tell him or her that you smile to show you love him or her. Talk about how people at church like to smile and take care of your child. If a child knows the name of his or her teacher at church, sing the song using the person’s name in place of the word “I.”

Do It!



People Help Me

People at church help me.

They say “hello!”

And smile at me.

They hold me close

And play with me

And give me good things to eat!



Say and do this finger play as you play with your child. Use your child’s name instead of “me.” Talk about the people who care for your child at church. (If your church has a picture directory,

May Parent's Home Page

show pictures of these people to your child.) Do this finger play many times, but especially immediately before and after your child has participated in the church nursery program. Your child's confidence and pleasure in the nursery will grow as he or she sees you affirming and enjoying your child's experiences in the nursery program, too.

Children Won't Wait

There is a time to anticipate the baby's coming, a time to consult a doctor;

A time to plan a diet and exercise, a time to gather a layette.

There is a time to wonder at the ways of God, knowing this is the destiny for which I was created;

A time to dream of what this child may become,

A time to pray that God will teach me how to train this child which I bear.

A time to prepare myself that I might nurture my child's soul.

But soon there comes the time for birth,
For babies won't wait.

There is a time for night feedings, and colic and formulas.

There is a time for rocking and a time for walking the floor,

A time for patience and self-sacrifice,

A time to show that my child's new world is a world of love and goodness and dependability.

There is a time to ponder what my child is—not a pet nor toy; but a person, an individual—a soul made in God's image.

Little children know how to make us laugh—even when we probably shouldn't!

There is a time to consider my stewardship. I cannot possess my child.

This child is not mine. I have been chosen to care for, to love, to enjoy,

To nurture and to answer to God for this child.

I resolve to do my best for this child,

For babies don't wait.

There is a time to hold my child close and tell the sweetest story ever told;

A time to enjoy earth and sky and flower, to teach my child of wonder and reverence for God and all He has made.

There is a time to leave the dishes, to swing my child in the park,

To run a race, to draw a picture, to catch a butterfly, to give my child happy comradeship.

There is a time to point the way, to teach infant lips to pray,

To teach my child's heart to love God's Word, to love God's way.

For children don't wait.

—Originally published by 20th Century Christian. Used by permission.

Goop

• Here is a great sensory development experience. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ box of cornstarch onto a shallow cookie tray. Slowly add water (with small amount of food coloring) and stir. Consider putting your child with cookie tray in the bathtub or other easy-to-clean area.

• Your child can play with goop by squeezing, pulling and letting the goop drip through his or her fingers. Though goop does not taste good, and you will want to encourage your child to touch—not taste—goop will not harm a child who manages to get a bit into his or her mouth.