

Are They Just Playing in There??



move! Preschoolers need to move and be active. They also have a very short attention span. (It's equal to about one minute per year of age!) So having multiple activities going on simultaneously suits preschoolers' learning needs perfectly. A child can play at one activity and then move to another when he is ready.

Play with Choices

Second, having multiple activities allows preschoolers to choose activities that interest them. Helping a preschooler learn to make choices is important. As your child grows in her spiritual development, she will one day get to a time of making the most important choice in her life, to choose to accept Christ as Savior. Giving young preschoolers an opportunity to make choices now is an essential part of that development of trust and faith. Your child's teachers are helping you build a strong foundation for your child's spiritual development.

Spiritual Foundations

Are you waiting until your child is in kindergarten to begin to teach him simple words, his name, colors, shapes, or body parts? Of course not! Those skills are important for a good educational foundation.

How your preschooler learns at church

Jennifer Cogley

You walk into the Sunday School room and all you see is toys. Your first thought is, "Are they just playing?" Well the answer is yes and no! Your child's teachers know a wonderful fact about preschoolers—they learn best through play! So while indeed preschoolers are playing, they are learning. Their play has a purpose. Your child's teachers are carefully orchestrating the conversations, songs, and play-based activities to help build a spiritual foundation in the life of your child. So don't be fooled by play—that play is important!

Purposeful Play

Purposeful play helps children learn an amazing amount of Bible information, concepts, and truths. Teachers deliberately set up multiple areas in the room with activities that capture children's attention and engage them in hands-on learning. There are two reasons for utilizing play as a teaching strategy. One is that play allows preschoolers to do what they do best—

So why would parents wait to teach preschoolers about God? From birth your child can begin to learn that church is a happy and safe place, Jesus is special, God made us, and many other basic biblical concepts. As your child grows, she can begin to connect her activities to what the Bible says. Everything that your child does or hears in the classroom is connected to basic Bible concepts. Preschool teachers are intentional in their teaching.

Repetition, Repetition

There is another thing your child's teachers know about preschoolers. Growing boys and girls learn through repetition! Teachers use the Bible phrase, Bible story, and Bible songs over and over again every week to reinforce what your child hears and experiences. Reinforcement can continue at home when you say the weekly Bible phrase, share the activity on the Early Bible Steps weekly page, and tell the Bible story over and over again.

So the next time you look in on your child's Sunday School class and think that all they do is play, thank God!