

Parent's Home Page

TIPS AND ACTIVITIES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER TWO

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

God Made Me

"God made me."
(See Job 33:4.)

This month we will help your child:

✦ enjoy success in using the body God made for him or her;

✦ begin to develop an awareness that God made his or her body.

DO IT!

God Made



God made my ears.



God made my nose.

God made my fingers.



God made my toes.



God made my eyes.

They're both open wide.



God made my mouth with a tongue inside!

Say and do this finger play with your child frequently. Connect the words of the finger play to your child's activity. For example, if your child is playing with a toy say, **God made your fingers to play with toys.** Then repeat the finger play, pointing to or gently touching the named body parts. Pray, **Thank You, God, for making my child.** Use your child's name when you pray for him or her.

July

Little Activities for Little People

Babies

- ✦ While feeding your baby, talk about the parts of the child's body. Say, **God made your mouth so you can eat.** Touch the child's mouth when you mention it. Repeat the word "mouth." Continue similarly, naming and touching fingers, toes, nose, ear, etc.
- ✦ During bath time, comment on the things that God made and the child's activities. Say, **It feels good to touch the warm water. God made water. Your hands and legs are in the water. God made your hands and legs. God made you!**



Toddlers

- ✦ Touch your nose and say, **This is my nose. Where is Jeremy's nose?** If your child is unable to touch his or her own nose, gently touch your child's nose. Say, **There's your nose!** Repeat the sequence several times, then move to another body part. As your child touches each part of his body, tell him or her that God made it. Continue as long as your child is responding with interest.
- ✦ Compare the facial and body features of a doll or stuffed animal with those of your child.
- ✦ Point to facial and body features of people pictured in magazines and books. Ask the child to touch his or her own nose, ears, chin, etc.

SING IT!

I Have Two Eyes

(Tune: "Pop Goes the Weasel")

I have two eyes.

I have two ears.

I have two hands and feet.

I have one mouth

and one little nose,

but, oh, so many fingers and toes!

Sing this song to your child while he or she is playing. Hold a doll or stuffed animal and point to the body parts you are singing about. Ask your child to point to his or her body parts as you name them. Take off your shoes and your child's shoes and wiggle toes for the last line of the song. Sometimes a child will listen to the song, doing nothing but waiting to do the very last motion or sound, if it is particularly satisfying to him or her. If your child is interested, sing the song several times to allow time for him or her to respond.

Your Child Is Learning

Do you realize how intensely your young child hungers to learn? Watch as he or she explores the house from corner to corner. Your child probably delights in unwinding the toilet paper, pulling out the pots and pans, eating the dog food or feeling the texture of the screen door.

Children learn the way God designed them to learn—from their everyday experiences. And it's important for parents to know how to participate in the process.

Children learn a significant part of their fundamental life skills through play activities. Their physical development is strengthened, refined and improved through climbing, crawling, running, throwing, etc. Their mental development progresses through stacking, manip-

ulating and experimenting with the everyday objects around them. Their social development is enhanced as they learn to play near others.

Recognize that each child is unique in the way he or she develops and learns. Don't fall into the worrisome trap of comparing one baby's development with another's, for every one of them will develop differently! Relax and enjoy your child's individual pace.

Exploring, manipulating, inquiring, creating, putting together, taking apart, stacking up, knocking down, tasting, smelling, feeling, looking, listening—what a potential rests in your child! That potential can be released, guided and encouraged by a loving parent. There is no thrill like being able to share with God in the growth and development of a child!

A Nature Experience

- ❖ Even the youngest child will be fascinated with living creatures. If you have ever wanted to have an aquarium, terrarium, or caged pet, get it now. If you don't want the expense or ongoing upkeep of one of the previous suggestions, do the following: Punch holes in the lid of a clear jar. Then simply collect a bug or two and some of the dirt and leaves where you found the bugs. Put the bugs, leaves and dirt in the jar and secure the lid.
- ❖ Hold your child in your lap and let him or her watch the bugs in the jar. Your child will be fascinated with the colors and the movement he or she observes. Be sure to place the jar where your child can get to it only when you are present. After your child has had sufficient time observing, let your child watch you return the bugs to the outdoors.



*"Children have
more need
of models
than of critics."
Joseph Joubert*

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