

- (f) Carry baby around in a Snuggli or newborn Gerry carrier.
- (g) Talk, sing, play records. Make life interesting for him. Those songs in the church nursery should be choruses or humms, and talk about Jesus. Don't limit the Holy Spirit.

## 2. Nursery (2-3)

- a. Play naming games, especially body parts, items in room, foods, pets, toys. Jesus made these or gave them to me, etc.
- b. Have non-tearable books with large, colorful pictures in them.
- c. Have play pens and space for toddlers to roam around in. Crawling seems to be associated with brain development.
- d. Have A, B, C's around and objects to count.
- e. Learn shapes and colors.
- f. Be sure pictures and toys are on eye level or easy reach for the child.
- g. Begin at age one to have sense of my, your, and ours.
  - (1) Some basic rules for idea of sharing--1) no one takes a toy away from anyone else, 2) if you aren't playing with it, another child may, 3) if someone begs a toy in a group situation, you can set the minute minder timer to take turns.
- h. Tell very short stories with finger play or puppets. Attention span is very short, about 2-3 minutes.
- i. Songs and choruses should also be brief, as should Bible verses, but do teach some. They can learn, and they can learn to pray short sentence prayers. Remember, by the time he is 3, he will have learned half of what he will ever learn. "When we get to the place where we pay more attention to the high chair," says Warden Lewis of Sing Sing, "we will have less need for the electric chair." (See also II Tim.3:14)
- j. At this age he is very active. Activity is essential to growth (he is increasing in size now very rapidly. Activity is also essential to development--change in character of body tissues which makes for maturity and strength. Development of senses--touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing comes through activity. Generated energy requires an outlet. Nervous system requires response to impressions. Instincts impel action--curiosity. Ideas impel action. Expresses himself in action.
- k. At this age he is a discoverer. As he grows through activity, he learns through discovery. He discovers his mother (protection, provision, Providence.) He discovers his world--experience is teacher. He discovers himself--mine and yours--his will vs. his mother's will. See Isaiah 53:6 and Susanna Wesley's early training.
- l. Morally at this age he is an imitator. His religion will be a reflection of that about him. This should make us aware of the importance of a right example in all aspects of life. His moral habits and attitudes will be largely determined by others. Adult approval or disapproval of his first acts will be far-reaching. So praise generous impulses, obedience, etc.--not vanity or pride. Disapprove every detrimental or disobedient act--not innocent mistakes.
- m. With these things in mind, there should be dedication to the Lord at home. The parents should pray for and with the child. They should have family worship, demanding respect on the part of the child, but keep it short so as not to provoke him to anger. They should provide love and security, but at the same time firmness and authority--require obedience on his level. Be consistent, mean what you say, and be sure you say what you mean. Praise as well as rebuke. Have Bible story book, know some songs, etc. In S.S. class should have varied program remembering the shortness of the attention span. See Bible Club's "Tiny Steps of Faith." He can be taught worship, prayer, giving. Don't underestimate his ability, but communicate with words he can understand, and make it fun and interesting. Show him you love the Lord, that you believe the Lord is a real Person who can be