



Thank You Teachers!!!

Thank you to all of the teachers who are currently working with the youngest members of our congregation. Your weekly service is necessary and truly appreciated. The influence you have on your students could make all the difference in their walk with God.

Your weekly devotion goes beyond the walls of your classroom and even those of this congregation. You are preparing the Lord's church for the next generation. Thank you for all you do!

The Importance of the Nursery Class

Early Childhood Matters

By: Sondra Saunders



Babies are built for learning. Every sensation -- touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound -- electrifies the infant brain and helps it establish sensory connections that'll last a lifetime.

Because babies build a sense of trust with caregivers as their needs are met, it's vital to respond to their needs in a loving and consistent manner. When adults interact lovingly with babies, their sense of self-worth grows. Babies develop trust in the people who meet their physical needs. You can surround an infant with a sense of acceptance, security, and love with the experiences you provide for babies in your nursery. Babies feel God's love as it flows from you.

Babies build their earliest foundation of God through their experiences at church. You can tap into their five senses and build a positive experience for babies in your nursery using the following tips.

Sound -- When you sing or talk to babies, use Bible truths such as "God made the birds," "Jesus loves you," and "God made you." Pray aloud with babies.

Sight -- Infants are stimulated by contrasting colors because they're easier to distinguish than similar colors such as red and orange. Decorate your nursery with contrasting colors.

Smell -- Keep your nursery free of bad odors, but avoid using strongly perfumed air fresheners. A light deodorizer is fine, but a clean nursery makes a better-smelling nursery.

Taste -- Taste is a powerful sensation for babies, especially when it curbs hunger and brings comfort. Tend promptly to an infant's cries of hunger with milk or formula as instructed by parents.

Touch -- You've probably noticed that babies have incredibly strong grips when they grab your fingers. Holding babies or comforting them with a soothing touch also stimulates their brain development.

As babies grow into toddlers, use Bible thoughts, stories, and songs on a regular basis to help little ones learn about God in different ways.

Toddlers' attitudes about God and church are formed early through experiences they have in your classroom. Toddlers need a safe, loving environment that stimulates them to explore and discover God's world. As leaders, we need to provide positive examples of love, acceptance, and security.



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Making disciples of all men.

Spring Quarter Begins March 2nd

Looking forward to the coming quarter- Are you teaching your preferred grade level? Are you ready for a break? Would you like to **teach or assist**?

Would you like to coach the **Bible Challenge** team?

See Ryan Murphy for more information

Can you help with **Kingdom Kids** (our children's worship)?

See Tyha Murphy for more information

Daily Edification

Every week I see teachers busily working away at "gardening" in their classrooms. As you plant the seed within your students; make sure to spend time in your own soil as well.

Set aside a time for daily prayer and study so that you may continue to water, feed, and weed your own spiritual life.

Here are some scriptures to ponder:

Romans 1:9-10
Philippians 4:6
Mark 4

Communication Bloopers

By: Wes Fleming

"An unreliable messenger stumbles into trouble, but a reliable messenger brings healing" Proverbs 13:17 (NLT).

Reliable communication occurs when intent equals impact -- when what we mean to say is what's heard. Simple enough? In theory, maybe. In reality, though, people's pasts, cultures, and personalities impact how they hear things.

Mike was a policeman from Brooklyn who, after attending Bible school, worked with our children and youth as an intern. He was born and raised in a culture that speaks fast and to the point.

Mike had a heart of gold and the kids loved him, but some of the parents were put off by his blunt communication style. To gain parents' confidence, he humbled himself and adjusted his communication style to fit their filters.

It wasn't long before Mike started asking instead of telling people to serve in our nurseries.

Are you willing and able to anticipate what a parent may hear before you speak and adjust your style accordingly? This is the essence of good communication.

Listening Skills

Listening provides us with the information we need to avoid being misunderstood. Opening our ears to parents' hearts, we find out whether they're capable of understanding us at the time or whether their stress, fatigue, culture, values, personal needs, and past hurts require us to turn up the volume or turn it down. Listening demonstrates our desire to understand and respect another's feelings and viewpoint. Listening means we refrain from giving advice or even expressing an opinion until we better understand the person.

It also requires...

- an awareness of how you're feeling so you're able to decode a parent's sentiments fairly;
- avoiding subtle verbal and nonverbal expressions that convey judgment;
- maintaining good eye contact while a person is speaking;
- allowing periods of silence to give parents enough time to get in touch with what they really feel;
- listening not only to what the parent says but also to what he or she is trying to say; and providing undivided attention

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.oregoncitychurchofchrist.org