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# TEACH WITH CONFIDENCE

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Teaching preschoolers is a wonderful challenge and rewarding experience. Teaching requires you to acknowledge that children can and do learn, and they need the help of loving, attentive adults who love Jesus!

**1. Arrive early.** How much time is needed to set up the room? You may need thirty minutes or an hour. Arrive early before children get to the room so you have plenty of time and will not be rushed.

**2. Prepare the environment for teaching and learning.** Review the session plans and collect the resources for activities that will support the Life Point and connect biblical concepts to the children's activities.

Arrange the resources in the room to capture preschoolers' attention. Avoid cluttering the room, however. Use only what is needed for a specific session. (Remove and store unnecessary materials. These tend to get in the way and distract preschoolers from the intended biblical emphasis.)

**3. Teach the Bible content.** The first way you communicate God's love is through your relationships with the children. Every time each child is brought to your door, warmly greet him with a smile and heartfelt welcome. Tell each child that you are happy he is at church to learn from the Bible.

Remember that the Bible is your most important teaching tool. Use it during every session as part of every activity. Provide two or more Bibles for the children to touch, hold, carry, and "read." As the preschoolers play, use Bible story conversations, sing songs related to biblical concepts, and say simple Bible verses. Connect the Life Point to the children's activities and their experiences.

**4. Build relationships.** Get to know the children—their personalities, needs, family members, and preferences. Contact families often to tell them how their children are growing and learning at church. Remember birthdays and special occasions to affirm the preschoolers and help them know they are loved.

**5. Plan for teaching.** Preschoolers will develop attitudes about church based on the experiences they have in their rooms with leaders and the other children. Plan with other leaders for positive learning to take place and help preschoolers enjoy church.

*Do you sometimes feel clueless teaching babies? You can teach with confidence and know you are making a difference. Follow these simple steps to build your confidence as a leader.*