

Methods for Teaching Toddlers & Twos

A. How toddlers and two year olds learn. Two year olds are:

1. Imitators
2. Experimenters
3. Learning language skills
4. Learning through important relationships
5. Self-contained (group exercises don't mean as much as individual encounters. A teacher's helper is helpful here.

B. What works and what doesn't work for Twos:

1. Do's for Twos:

- a. Do create a safe, interesting environment where children can freely explore.
- b. Do refer frequently to God, Jesus, and the Bible to lay a solid foundation for future spiritual growth.
- c. Do create an emotionally warm environment that builds trust.
- d. Do present Bible stories in brief, short presentations, encouraging movement and participation by the children.
- e. Do encourage lots of talking and repeating.
- f. Do teach children individually or in small groups.
- g. Do encourage crafts and projects which allow children to enjoy the process of creating.

2. Don'ts for Toddlers & Twos:

- a. Don't have any unsafe conditions which would keep the children from moving about.
- b. Don't assume that toddlers are too young to be exposed to Bible truths.
- c. Don't tell lengthy Bible stories as children sit passively.
- d. Don't discourage children from talking and interacting.
- e. Don't teach the class at one time if the class is large. Helpers are helpful here.
- f. Don't pass out class activities which require coloring in lines or in which all the crafts look exactly alike the same when finished.

C. Specific Suggestions

1. Use action stories – simple drama: short and full on conversation
2. Use real life objects to demonstrate Bible stories.
3. Use the Bible itself.
 - a. Hold it while you tell the story so the children can see the connection.

- b. Be reverent in your attitude toward the Bible.
- a. Handle it tenderly.
- b. This age group likes tenderness.
- 4. Repetition is very useful for this age.
- 5. This age group likes colorful things.