

# Methods for Teaching Early Elementary Children (K-1)

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- A. How Early Elementary Children (K-1) learn. They are:
1. Dramatists and role-players.
  2. Hands-on creators.
  3. Simple, focused, concrete thinkers.
  4. Almost consumed by the process of learning to read.
- B. What works and what does not work for Early Elementary Children.
1. Do's for Early Elementary Children:
    - a. Do establish eye contact with the children and smile.
    - b. Do provide reading material that is a match for their reading abilities.
    - c. Do encourage students to show that they know exactly what the Bible story is about by retelling the Bible content. Dramatization, puppets, or role-playing could be used.
    - d. Do promote interactive creativity by providing activity choices which include cutting, constructing, and creating.
    - e. Do encourage activities that match the learning of new readers recognizing letters, frequent writing opportunities, repetitive text to read.
    - f. Recognize that the most important book these children will ever be exposed to is the Bible. Let it ever be seen.
  2. Don'ts for Early Elementary Children:
    - a. Don't understate what children will pick up from your facial expressions.
    - b. Don't expect most of the children to be able to read complex material.
    - c. Don't assume children have understood the bible content simply because the story is finished.
    - d. Don't pass out worksheets to early elementary students which require no interaction, activity, or response.
    - e. Don't ignore the fact that learning to read is a consuming part of their lives.
    - f. Don't miss opportunities to relate their new reading abilities to a future of reading the Bible.
- C. Specific Suggestions:
1. Continue to use stories . . . Can be longer and more abstract.
  2. Use a Bible that has larger print.
  3. Memory work can be used with this group.