

Toddler/2s Teaching Tips

Setting Up the Room

- Keep your room attractive and safe. Be sure that all electrical outlets are covered and there are no small objects, disinfectants, or cleaning supplies within the children's reach.
- In the **Books** area, set out a few books and a couple of pillows. For this area we recommend that you use sturdy books which are easy to clean. Three-to-five-piece puzzles also work well here.
- In the **Care Area**, use a pair of clean, disposable rubber gloves for each diaper you change. If disposable gloves are not available, wash hands thoroughly with disinfecting soap before and after each diaper change. Be sure to sanitize the area with disinfectant often.
- **Toys** should be appropriate for ages 18 to 36 months. Divide the toys into different sets which can be changed periodically. Regularly check toys for broken parts. Disinfect the toys with a solution of one teaspoon bleach to one gallon of water at least twice a month.
- A play kitchen set, dolls, dress-up clothes, blankets, and dishes make a wonderful **Home Living** area. Use a corner of the room to set these up.
- **Blocks** can be offered in many varieties, such as wood, interlocking, and stacking. Adding animals, cars, and toy people will add interest to this area. Set out one type of block of varying sizes at a time. The type of blocks can be changed once a month.
- Containers with lids or stacking bins can hold items for the different activity areas. If you have a small room, open two or three different containers in corners of the room.

Creating a Learning Environment

- Set up the room activities, including the craft, before the children arrive. This allows you the time to greet the children as they arrive and get them involved in an activity.
- Try to have a helper for every 4–5 children. Encourage parents to volunteer on a one-week rotating basis. Teens and grandparents also make good helpers.
- Allow time for the children to talk and share during **Talk Time**. This gives them an opportunity to share what they know. They can then use what they know to connect to the **Bible Story**.
- The **Music Time CD** can be played as background music while children are doing other activities in the classroom.